FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-231
Monday
4 December 1989

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-231 CONTENTS *4 December 1989*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Andean Countries Issue Antidrug Declaration *[La Paz EL DIARIO 21 Nov]* 1
Bishops Concerned About Panama, El Salvador *[ACAN]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Ambassador Blames U.S. for Salvadoran Terror *[Havana Radio]* 3
Namibian Deputies, Government Delegation Meet *[Havana TV]* 3
Ministry Says 27,279 Combatants Home From Angola *[Havana TV]* 3
GRANMA Article Hails Cuban Internationalism *[Havana TV]* 4
General Discusses Internationalist Ceremonies *[Havana Radio]* 4

Grenada

Government Unable To Honor Pay Contract 5
  Opposition Demands Resignation *[CANA]* 5
  Unions 'Feel Disgusted' *[CANA]* 5
  Public Workers Go on Strike *[CANA]* 5

Haiti

Government Paper Discusses U.S. Envoy's 'Gaffe' *[L'UNION 1 Dec]* 6
Joint Communique on Trade Issued With Caricom *[CANA]* 6
Letter From Hunger Striker Evans Paul Published *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Cristiani on Bush-Gorbachev Meeting, Peace Talks *[ACAN]* 8
Cristiani Denies Persecution of Clergy, Reporters *[ACAN]* 8
FMLN Reportedly Fires 2 SAM Rockets, No Hits *[San Salvador Radio]* 8
  Cristiani Reacts *[ACAN]* 9
Cristiani Asks Presidents To Set Summit Site *[San Salvador Radio]* 9
Cristiani Calls Reservists Into Active Duty *[San Salvador Radio]* 9
Army, U.S. Work To Counter Rebels' Missiles *[ACAN]* 10
FMLN Leader: USSR Never Supplied Weapons *[Radio Venceremos]* 10
Minister on Soviet Call for Stop to Military Aid *[San Salvador TV]* 10
Communique on Nicaraguan, Cuban 'Intervention' *[San Salvador Radio]* 11
Government Radio Criticizes Union-FMLN Links *[San Salvador Radio]* 11
Commentary on Need for U.S. To Change Policy *[Radio Venceremos]* 11
Government Communique Foresees End of FMLN *[San Salvador Radio]* 12
Terrorist Reveals FMLN Ties With Nicaragua *[San Salvador Radio]* 12
'Terrorists' Involved in Attack in Custody *[San Salvador Radio]* 13
Col Ponce To Be Called in Jesuit Priests Case *[San Salvador TV]* 13
Colonel Ponce Discusses FMLN Offensive *[DIARIO LATINO 30 Nov]* 14
Further On Army's Views of Guerrilla Offensive *[San Salvador TV]* 14
Defense Ministry Communique Refutes Charges *[San Salvador Radio]* 15

Treasury Police Report Arrest of 2 U.S. Citizens *[San Salvador Radio]* ... 15
Rosa Chavez on Malta Summit, Church Efforts *[San Salvador TV]* ... 15
Bishop on 'Climate of Persecution' Against Clergy *[ACAN]* ... 16
Church Workers, Including 1 American, Arrested *[ACAN]* ... 17
Spanish Priest Arrested in San Salvador *[ACAN]* ... 17
Dominican Priest Released, Others Still Held *[ACAN]* ... 17
Spain Asks Release of Episcopal Priest, 10 Others *[Madrid EFE]* ... 18
FMLN Links To Church Groups Exposed *[San Salvador Radio]* ... 18
FMLN Warns of Action in Escalon and San Benito *[Radio Venceremos]* ... 20
Rebels Report Clashes in San Salvador Outskirts *[Radio Venceremos]* ... 20
Rebels on Damaging 2 Helicopters, Other Action *[Radio Venceremos]* ... 20
FMLN Reports Attack on Zacatecoluca City *[Radio Venceremos]* ... 20
Venceremos Claims Honduran Troops Crossed Border ... 21
Rebel Radio Says Soldiers Raid City Cooperatives *[Radio Venceremos]* ... 21
Forty-Seven Foreign 'Mercenaries' Arrested *[San Salvador Radio]* ... 21
FMLN Reportedly Kidnaps Civilians, Reporters *[San Salvador Radio]* ... 21

Guatemala

Government Spokesman on Venue of 10-11 Dec Summit *[ACAN]* ... 21
Visiting USSR Official Meets Foreign Minister *[EL GRAFICO 1 Dec]* ... 22

Honduras

Spokesman Says CIA, AID Intervened in Voting *[ACAN]* ... 22
Soviet Solidarity Committee Meets Azcona *[EL HERALDO 1 Dec]* ... 22

Nicaragua

Ortega on Deadline for Disbanding Contras *[ACAN]* ... 23
Ortega on Regional Summit, U.S. Policy *[Managua Radio]* ... 23
Ortega Criticizes UNO Links With Contras *[Managua Radio]* ... 24
    Further Comments *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 2 Dec]* ... 24
Ministry Reaction to New U.S. Contra Aid *[BARRICADA 1 Dec]* ... 24
Cease-Fire in El Salvador Sought at UN *[Madrid EFE]* ... 25
Region Chief Expects Increase in Contra Actions *[ACAN]* ... 25
LA PRENSA Reports on Aborted Air Mission *[Managua Radio]* ... 26
Chamorro Sends Letter to Mikhail Gorbachev *[LA PRENSA 30 Nov]* ... 27
UNO Political Council Backs Godoy Candidacy *[Managua Radio]* ... 27
Local Media on Godoy's Loss of Immunity *[Managua TV, etc]* ... 27
UNO Calls Maneuvers Against Godoy Illegal *[LA PRENSA 1 Dec]* ... 28
Paper Says Godoy Admits Working With Contras *[BARRICADA 2 Dec]* ... 29
Pastora Returns, Offers 'Nonaligned' Alternative *[ACAN]* ... 29
GDR Donates $4 Million for Rama Reconstruction *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 12 Nov]* ... 30
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Norway *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 29 Nov]* ... 30

Panama

Summons Issued Against Gens Thurman, Cisneros *[Panama City Radio]* ... 30
    Letter Requesting Summons *[CRITICA 2 Dec]* ... 31
    Summons Published *[CRITICA 2 Dec]* ... 31
Costa Rican Helicopter Crashes Near U.S. Base *[ACAN]* ... 32
    Flight 'Completely Illegal' *[Panama City TV]* ... 32
    U.S. 'Violated' Panamanian Waters *[CRITICA 2 Dec]* ... 32
Tourism Official Says U.S. Army Closed Beach *[ACAN]* ... 33
Reaction to Ban on Panamanian-Flagged Ships ... 33
    Government Diplomat Comments *[Madrid EFE]* ... 33
    Newspaper Commentary *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 3 Dec]* ... 33
    Column Decries Ship Ban *[CRITICA 2 Dec]* ... 34
    Lawyers View 'Dangerous' Precedent *[ACAN]* ... 34
    Maritime Law Group Rejects Ban *[Panama City TV]* ... 35
    Law Firms Affected *[CRITICA 1 Dec]* ... 35

Rodriguez Speaks at Anti-Intervention Conference *[CRITICA 28 Nov]* 35
FDP Views Conference on U.S. Intervention *[Panama City TV]* 39
PRD Leader Views Noriega Speech, Ban on Ships *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 3 Dec]* 40
Liberal Party Voices Support for Noriega *[MATUTINO 1 Dec]* 40
ADOC Leaders Reject More U.S. Sanctions *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 1 Dec]* 41
Treaty Affairs Chief Discusses Canal Treaty *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 3 Dec]* 41
Letter to PCC Deputy Administrator Manfredo *[CRITICA 23 Nov]* 42
Episcopal Conference Calls for Reconciliation *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 2 Dec]* 42
Exiled Writer Appears on Clandestine Broadcast *[ACAN]* 44
Staff List of 'Little Headman of Terror' Noriega *[San Jose Radio]* 44
CONATO Releases Communique on 'Sole Union' *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 30 Nov]* 44
Minister Announces Schedule for Paying Salaries *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 3 Dec]* 46
Chamber of Commerce President Views Economy *[Panama City TV]* 46

SOUTH AMERICA

Bolivia

Country Holds Municipal Elections 3 December 48
    President Urges Voter Turnout *[Madrid EFE]* 48
    Praises Peaceful Polling *[Madrid EFE]* 48
    Leftist Leading in La Paz *[La Paz Radio]* 48
    IU Projected Winner in Sucre *[Madrid EFE]* 49
Communique Issued on Operation at Brazil Border *[Madrid EFE]* 49
Colombian Drug Trafficker Rendon Escapes Jail *[La Paz Radio]* 49
Decree on Antinarcotics Organizations Passed *[EL DIARIO 23 Nov]* 49
Central Bank Freely Disposable Reserves Reported *[EL DIARIO 22 Nov]* 50
UN Ambassador Named Head of Group of 77 Meeting *[La Paz Radio]* 50
Castro Offers To Mediate Bolivia-Chile Dispute *[Madrid EFE]* 50
FRG To Grant $70 Million in Assistance *[PRESENCIA 25 Nov]* 50

Brazil

November Inflation Rate Hits Record High *[Brasilia Radio]* 50
* Alarmism Over Internal Debt Said Unjustified *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 20 Oct]* 51
* Nazare on Inability To Make Bomb for 10 Years *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 22 Oct]* 51
* Agricultural Accord With Iran Nears Conclusion *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Oct]* 52

Chile

Pinochet Will Leave 'If The People Ask' *[Santiago Radio]* 53
Aylwin on Pinochet's Permanence as Army Commander *[Madrid EFE]* 53
Poll Indicates Landslide Victory for Aylwin *[Santiago Radio]* 53
Foreign Minister on UN Human Rights Resolution *[Santiago Radio]* 54
Ten-Month Trade Balance Surplus Reported *[EL MERCURIO 28 Nov]* 54
New Nuclear Reactor Installed in Lo Aguirre *[EL MERCURIO 23 Nov]* 54
Navy Commander's Office To Move to Valparaiso *[Santiago Radio]* 54

Colombia

President Barco Addresses Nation on Extradition *[Bogota TV]* 54
Extradition Inclusion in Referendum Controversial 56
    Minister Opposes Inclusion *[Bogota TV]* 56
    Extraditables Hail Inclusion *[Bogota TV]* 57
    Barco Critical of Congress *[Bogota Radio]* 57
    Defense Minister Gives Views *[Bogota TV]* 57
President Discusses Upcoming Visit to Japan *[Tokyo KYODO]* 58
Police Center in Medellin Bombed *[Bogota Radio]* 58

Peru

Arrest Made for Murder of U.S. Journalist *[Madrid EFE]* 58
Terrorist Attacks, Red Alert in Andean Areas *[Madrid EFE]* 58
Garcia Meets With Argentine Vice President *[Lima TV]* 59

Venezuela

Election of Municipal Representatives, Governors 59
    Apathy, Absenteeism Noted *[Madrid EFE]* 59
    Democratic Action Claims Victory *[Madrid EFE]* 60

Andean Countries Issue Antidrug Declaration

PY0212224989 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Nov 89 p 3

[Text] The Seventh Andean Parliament Commission, which met in Cochabamba over the past weekend, has issued the Cochabamba Declaration stating that the repression of illegal drug trafficking calls for a clear and definite commitment on the part of all social sectors.

Senate President Gonzalo Valda, who led the commission's deliberations, stressed the importance of the resolutions approved by the commission and the significance of the Cochabamba Declaration, the first document that the parliaments of the Bolivarian countries have issued on illegal drug trafficking.

In the wake of the situation created by the illegal trafficking of drugs, the members of the seventh commission of the Andean Parliament have reiterated the following points, which are included in the Cochabamba Declaration:

1. That they ratify the position of the Andean Parliament, which considers illegal drug trafficking a crime against humankind. This is the position that the United Nations conference approved in Vienna at our own request.

2. That the major problems caused by this new socioeconomic and political phenomenon have jeopardized the sovereignty of states, their democratic stability and their institutions, and the security of the Andean states.

3. That the fight against illegal drug trafficking calls for a clear and definite commitment on the part of all cultural, professional, and socioeconomic sectors.

4. That the solution to the problems posed by illegal drug trafficking calls for comprehensive national efforts and for an actual commitment by producer and consumer countries, with due respect for the sovereignty of each country.

5. That the existence of an illegal international market for coca leaf by-products is a major problem that consumer and producer countries should solve on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility, within their own possibilities.

6. That the solution of the problems posed by the illegal trafficking of drugs must be closely linked with specific socioeconomic development programs in producer countries.

7. That the creation of commercial, industrial, and financial structures under a system of laws that can cover illegal investment is one of the major obstacles in the search for realistic solutions.

8. That the programs aimed at controlling drug production, trafficking, and consumption should not become mechanisms for exerting economic and political pressure in international relations.

9. That the programs for the eradication of coca farms must be implemented with due respect for the sovereignty of nations, guaranteeing socioeconomic development without affecting the social, cultural, and ecological integrity of producing countries.

10. That the coordination of laws on the illegal production and trafficking of coca leaf by-products and of other psychotropic substances is a priority issue that Andean countries should begin pursuing as soon as possible.

11. That in addition to the resolution of the problems stemming from the illegal production and processing of coca leaves, the adoption of comprehensive drug abuse control measures and the treatment, rehabilitation, and the reinstatement of drug addicts into society is an unpostponable task for the protection of individuals and society.

12. That the programs for alternative development and replacement of coca farms will be feasible only if the international community establishes actual mechanisms of preferential treatment for the products that replace coca crops.

13. That considering the importance of the "LARA BONILLA" agreement on illegal drug trafficking, the members of the Andean Pact are hereby urged to take action to promptly ratify the agreement.

14. That the Andean Parliament, through the seventh commission, expresses its strongest support for the meeting that the Bolivian, Colombian, and Peruvian presidents held with the U.S. President on the illegal trafficking of drugs, and urges the Latin American community to provide their full support to them.

Bishops Concerned About Panama, El Salvador

PA0312233489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1945 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Guatemala, 3 Dec (ACAN-EFE) — Central American bishops are "very worried" over the situation of the church and the people in El Salvador and Panama, "who are enduring a difficult trial," according to a document issued by the Episcopal Secretariat of Central America and Panama (SEDAC).

In the document, signed by 42 area bishops, the bishops "express appreciation for the courageous, evangelical, and patriotic attitude of the Panamanian Church, guided by its true clergymen, in facing the double aggression they are enduring."

Panama is enduring "external sanctions (imposed by the United States) that impoverish the country, along with the open denial of fundamental guarantees and rights to those who disagree with the policy of the current provisional government," the document adds.

Regarding El Salvador, "we are hurt" by the suffering, death, and destruction caused by the escalation of the violence that El Salvador has been enduring for a decade.

"The use of the civilian population for the protection of armed groups, the intense bombing of densely populated areas (by the Army), and the use of the media to stir up people's feelings and increase hatred among brothers are all repulsive," the SEDAC document states.

The SEDAC recalls that among the war victims are six Jesuit priests, who, from their teaching podiums, tried to shape moral and just consciences among the future builders of society. It also condemns the "brutal way in which they were massacred, which proves how far the moral sense and human quality of those who perpetrated the crime has fallen."

Regarding peace in Central America, the highest ranking leaders of the church in the area point out that there are many factors preventing or hampering efforts to build a long lasting peace.

Among the factors the bishops mention is "the persistence of serious social problems—hunger, unemployment, the high cost of living, and the reality of an underprivileged class—yet most rulers and other bodies holding power do not show any desire to eliminate these factors."

In addition, the "criminal stubbornness" of searching for a military and armed solution to the situation of violence has generated "the deeply rooted injustice in our reality, which is aggravated by the outrageous meddling of foreign superpowers."

"The interests of a group or ideologies prevail over the needs and rights of citizens," the SEDAC document states. The heads of the churches of the six isthmian countries add that this hastens the "criminal and immoral" arms buildup, which, with the exception of Costa Rica, has led people in the area into increasing impoverishment and a rise in their foreign debt.

"The smuggling of weapons to strengthen subversive movements of various tendencies is no less outrageous and criminal than the existence of death squads or paramilitary groups," the SEDAC document adds.

It is worrying to see how some nations in the area promote campaigns such as "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" (Panama), or promote "antiterrorist" laws (El Salvador) that can be used for the outrageous abuse of power to eliminate adversaries, the bishops pointed out.

To all these evils, one must add the flight of capital, the increasing drug trafficking, and the resulting corruption, violence, and death.

Cuba

Ambassador Blames U.S. for Salvadoran Terror

FL0212134589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1222 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Oscar Oramas, the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, has stated that the arms supplied by the United States and the hundreds of U.S. advisers sent to El Salvador are the cause of the terror that Salvadorans have had to endure for more than 10 years.

Oramas charged that U.S. assistance has been the main cause of the torture, murders, and disappearances that have become a daily occurrence in the Central American nation.

Oramas added that despite the great effort made by the U.S. Administration to conceal its responsibility for the violence prevailing in El Salvador, the international community will not be deceived and the facts that will go down in history will show that the peoples have pointed their accusing fingers at the United States.

The Cuban diplomat rebutted U.S. charges aimed at shifting responsibility to our country for the Salvadoran situation. The U.S. charges were to be expected, Oramas said.

Namibian Deputies, Government Delegation Meet

FL0112120089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The presence of a delegation of deputies from the Namibian Constituent Assembly to the Joint Angola-Cuba-South Africa Commission meeting was an important event this week. This meeting was the last of the year for the commission and was organized by the South African Government, as had been agreed.

The attendance of Namibian representatives sealed the first official act in the international arena of that territory in a meeting of this nature. After the long process of meetings, actions, and discussions about implementing UN Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia, the results were finally evident.

The head of the Cuban delegation, Carlos Aldana, member of the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba, said at the end of the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Aldana] Yes, I think it has been the shortest meeting we have had.

[Reporter] And why is that?

[Aldana] I think it is only natural because things are going well. It has been a short, fruitful meeting which reflects how the process is going. You will later see the communique, which is very explicit. [end recording]

Other subjects were discussed during this sixth regular session, such as the fulfillment of the agreements made almost 1 year ago in New York. Also discussed was the still residual presence in Namibia of minimum personnel of the so-called South African Defense Force. Cuba, for its part, is fulfilling the process for withdrawing its troops in accordance with the agreements reached. Martti Ahtisaari, UN special representative, broached a future topic for new negotiations as he referred to Walvis Bay.

[Begin Ahtisaari recording, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] The UN position was established in 1978. Ever since then, it has been a subject that must be discussed between the independent Government of Namibia and the South African Government. I am certain that the discussion will be held. [end recording]

Two deputies of the Namibian Constituent Assembly discussed the work they are currently carrying out.

[Begin recording of unidentified Namibian deputy, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] Namibians need to solve a wide range of problems. Among them, especially, is development. This is simply because the black population, in particular, has been ignored for a long time. In many cases, people think they can just sit and enjoy independence [word indistinct], but it is not like that. We are telling the population that freedom holds a lot of responsibility, and that the main responsibility is to get people to begin working. Although the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] is the party which holds the majority in the constituent assembly, we also have six other parties. SWAPO has 41 deputies out of the 72 members. However, in all matters related to procedure and policies, SWAPO will always make its final decision in the constituent assembly. [end recording]

During the meeting, a call was also made to provide financial aid to the future independent Namibia in view of the responsibility the international community has in this process. The head of the observation mission of Cuba in Namibia, Alcibiades Hidalgo, emphasized this fact when he was interviewed by Cuban television.

[Begin Hidalgo recording] The Namibian situation was discussed. We discussed the problems this country will face after independence, and the nation's serious underdevelopment. In this context, the Cuban delegation offered to support with medical and paramedical personnel the independent Namibia that will exist after the work of the constituent assembly is done. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ministry Says 27,279 Combatants Home From Angola

FL0212152589 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [MINFAR] has reported that, in compliance with the bilateral agreements signed in New York on 22 December 1988 between Cuba and Angola, 27,279 Cuban internationalist combatants have already returned to Cuba. In November, 2,088 internationalist combatants were withdrawn from the People's Republic of Angola, thus bringing to more than 27,000 combatants the number of those who have returned to the fatherland by 30 November. Thus, our country continues to comply with the scheduled withdrawal plan.

Pursuant to the agreements, the entire withdrawal process of Cuban personnel has been supervised by the UN verification mission in the People's Republic of Angola.

GRANMA Article Hails Cuban Internationalism

FL0212171089 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] In an article entitled: A Revolutionary and Internationalist Armed Forces, the newspaper GRANMA stated today that internationalism has always been present in Cuban history.

The newspaper says that during the wars of independence, combatants from other countries joined the ranks of the Cuban rebel army: Maximo Gomez, (Henry Reef), Carlos Roloff and others will make an endless list of internationalists who fought for the independence of Cuba. When in 1956 Fidel proclaimed to the world that we, Cubans, would be either free or martyrs, we received constant gestures of solidarity and support from Latin America.

Early on 2 December 1956, upon the "Granma" historic landing in Cuba, the rebel army, which was the glorious predecessor of the current Revolutionary Armed Forces, came into being. Ernesto Che Guevara, an Argentine national and a citizen of the world, played an outstanding role from the very beginning in that rebel army. Che was a commander of the Cuban revolution and a leader of internationalism in this century.

GRANMA also states that it should not surprise anyone that a people like ours, who are so indebted to the world revolutionary movement, are characterized by their high internationalist spirit. GRANMA, the newspaper of the party's Central Committee, adds that the heroic Cuban combatants who fulfilled missions in Angola, Ethiopia, and in other places, are continuing a tradition, dating back more than a century, that was started by the Cubans who joined Juarez' army to expel the French invaders from Mexico; a tradition again observed in 1936 by those who went to Spain to fight Fascism and by those who joined the Red Army 5 years later to rid Lenin's fatherland from Hitler's hordes.

GRANMA concludes by stating that now that we are welcoming our victorious internationalists back, proud that they have accomplished their sacred duty. We regret the absence of our brothers who fell in this endeavor. We feel grief for these absences, but our pain is mitigated by our awareness that this victory is primarily theirs. Their absence demands that we continue to honor their memory by defending our achievements, by remaining faithful to our principles, and by accomplishing the tasks and objectives of the revolution in the arduous battles that are still ahead of us.

General Discusses Internationalist Ceremonies

FL0112221089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Acting on a proposal submitted by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], the Council of State has approved the issuance of the Medal For Victory Cuba-People's Republic of Angola to the Cuban internationalist combatants who served along with the heroic People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola in periods that preceded the gradual, victorious return of our troops.

Thus, the FAR, during the first stage, will hold solemn ceremonies from 2 December 1989 to 10 January 1990 to present medals to those who earned them. These ceremonies will be held in work places, defense zones, historical centers, and other places where those honored can meet with their relatives and comrades. Because of their high political and ideological significance, these activities will be part of the well-deserved tribute our people will always pay, especially during these days, to those who gave their lives for the cause of national liberation, for socialism, and for internationalism.

In this regard, Division General Sixto Batista Santana, secretary of the Central Committee and chief of the military department, has reported that more than 250,000 fellow countrymen are directly working with great dedication in preparing the funeral ceremonies, which are scheduled for 7 December, of the internationalists who fell in Angola, Ethiopia, and other places around the world.

Gen Batista emphasized that from the very beginning of the internationalist mission in Angola, we worked with the idea of repatriating at a certain moment the bodies of those who fell there, a principle that was also followed in Ethiopia and in other places where the active solidarity of the Cuban people became tangible.

Gen Batista reported that 160 mausoleums were erected throughout the country and that, in the special case of Havana City, mausoleums were erected in the cemeteries of La Lisa, Boyeros, Cotorro, Regla, and Guanabacoa, where the bodies of internationalists from these municipalities will be buried. He added that those internationalists from the ten other Havana municipalities will be buried in the Colon cemetery, in the pantheon of the veterans of our wars of independence. He added that 24,000 militiamen will take part in the funeral ceremonies. He said that the bodies of the internationalists will lie in state in buildings of the party, the government, unions, houses of culture, and museums, so our people can pay them their respects.

He added that in the case of those missing, their pictures with their names will be exhibited in those places, so they may also receive the well-deserved tribute from their people.

Grenada

Government Unable To Honor Pay Contract

Opposition Demands Resignation

FL0112174789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1543 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 1, CANA— The opposition New National Party (NNP) has called on Grenadians to demand the immediate resignation of the minority government of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, over its failure to honour a pay contract with public sector unions.

The party headed by former Public Utilities Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell said the Blaize administration should step down from office and prepare the way for general elections at the earliest possible time.

A statement outlining the NNP's position, followed the disclosure by the Grenada government that it could not meet Friday's deadline to give public workers 24 million East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) in retroactive payments covering the 1987-89 period.

The New National Party condemns in the strongest possible terms this savage and heartless attack on the rights of workers to enjoy just compensation for their contribution to the national well-being," the party said. "The New National Party deeply regrets this deplorable failure by the Blaize government, especially at this time of the year when the spirit of caring and sharing is particularly appreciated," it added.

The NNP said the failure to pay out the backpay "is further evidence of the incompetence and inefficiency of the Blaize administration."

Blaize was voted into office in 1984 at the head of the NNP but following resignations and dismissals withdrew from the party in September this year to form the National Party (TNP).

Unions 'Feel Disgusted'

FL0112182789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1629 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec. 1, CANA— President of the Public Workers Union (PWU) in Grenada, Lauret Clarkson, says the government should expect "utter chaos" in the country, following its failure to give EC 24 million dollars (one East Caribbean dollar = 37 U.S. cents) in backpay to public workers. The money was to have been paid by today.

Clarkson said Prime Minister Herbert Blaize had informed the public sector unions of his administration's inability to pay the money, covering the period 1987-89. She told CANA Blaize indicated that funds which the government had expected from "external sources" had not been received. Clarkson said the government's position is "totally ridiculous" and that the unions "feel disgusted at the whole situation."

She said that before leaving the meeting, Blaize was informed that the union leaders would not hold themselves responsible for any action which civil servants might decide to take in the circumstances. "We would not hold ourselves responsible for any action membership want to take and we are very firm on this, I repeated myself (to Blaize) and I hope he has gotten the message. I anticipate all sorts of actions," she said.

Union leaders have called an emergency meeting today with their membership, to decide on "what course of action to take in retaliation against the Blaize government."

The union leader declined to say what sort of reaction she expected from government employees to the new development. "We cannot say what is going to take place but we know something is going to take place.... That is all we could say at this time," she said.

Clarkson said that what makes the situation more disturbing is the fact that the same workers now affected were the ones working overtime to put the machinery in place for the retroactive payment. She spoke of cheques having already been made out and signed for presentation in the bank for collection of the money owed. She said the workers would obviously feel disappointed since most of them had already planned on how to spend their money for the Christmas season.

Blaize is due to address the nation tonight on the issue. During the past two weeks, the prime minister's special advisor, Albert Xavier has visited the United States in a bid to secure the necessary funds.

Public Workers Go on Strike

FL0112211389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1941 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 1, CANA—An estimated 3,000 public workers have voted unanimously for an immediate strike against the Grenada Government over its failure to pay 24 million East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar; 37 U.S. cents) in backpay owed to them. The payout was to have been made today, but Prime Minister Herbert Blaize told the workers that government had been unable to raise the money.

The workers decided on the immediate strike action during an emergency meeting of the Public Workers Union, the Technical and Allied Workers Union, and the Grenada Teachers Union, Friday.

A spokesman for the unions told CANA that the workers have also decided to picket the weekly cabinet meetings of the government until the payment has been made.

Opposition political parties have called on the government to resign over the issue and call general elections as soon as possible.

Haiti

Government Paper Discusses U.S. Envoy's 'Gaffe'

FL0112192789 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French No 257, 1 Dec 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] To understand the firmness with which the government reacted to Ambassador Adams' monumental gaffe, it is necessary to look behind the curtain to see what happened backstage.

Everything had been anticipated for approximately 3 weeks: the delivery of the appropriate documents [copies de style] to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the presentation of credentials to the chief of state. The dates of these two ceremonies had been set for more than 15 days.

Then, instead of unearthing the precious stones of democracy, the ambassador throws a stone into the puddle with a lack of constraint [desinvolture] hardly in keeping with diplomatic protocol. A blow is thereby dealt to the nation's dignity. Grumbling arises and swells. The more prudent political leaders remain silent, careful not to go against the general disaffection.

In short, the ambassador forgot that he had just arrived in the country of Pierre Sully and Benoit Batraville. [Sully was allegedly the first soldier to fire on landing U.S. troops when Haiti was occupied in 1915; Batraville a Caco leader who fought the occupation troops] The chief of state himself, true to the teachings of Haitian history, finds himself with a bad cold—but, oh how polite he is nevertheless! —that prevents him from receiving the man who takes himself for a proconsul. Prior to that, it was the minister of foreign affairs who, unavoidably busy, had been unable to receive the new ambassador.

Facetious popular wisdom reacts to the incongruous proverb with words of wit of undreamed of cruelty and proverbs appropriate to the uncomfortable situation of this unfortunate ambassador, loaded down like an...

"If too heavily loaded, the ass will lie down."

"What in God's name did the owl do for the other bird, to have the other bird name his child after the owl?" [preceding two proverbs in Creole]

That is to say: "When the load is too heavy, the ass balks and lies down."

And "To claim certain rights, one must have earned them."

The president, reknowned for his politeness, will undoubtedly sooner or later receive the credentials after the excuses received. However, the Haitian people, conditioned by the tragedy of 1915 and the insults then, and devoid of diplomatic subtleties, will keep their hearts and their fists shut tight. An auspicious miscalculation [heureux mecompte].

We must reach the decision to no longer sponge off Uncle Sam, to no longer live beyond our means. We must learn to bite the bullet and work hard to be able to take up our independence as a people.

Joint Communique on Trade Issued With Caricom

FL0112185389 Bridgetown CANA in English 1714 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 1, CANA— The inaugural meeting of the Haiti/Caribbean Community (Caricom) Joint Technical Group (JTG) has ended here with the two sides agreeing on a number of recommendations on trade, sea and air transportation and ways to implement and monitor the programmes.

A joint communique on the November 27-28 meeting here said the parties discussed "a number of options with regard to possible mechanisms for the development of trade and the need for adequate transportation arrangements, both maritime and aviation, to facilitate such trade."

The two sides also examined possible means for collaboration within the framework of the regional cooperation programme "once Haiti's application to join the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and to sign the fourth Lome Convention (for European Community Trade and Aid Benefits) was successful."

The meeting also recognised the need to overcome language barriers in order to facilitate further cooperation and examined the need for continued cooperation in the area of disaster preparedness and for the establishment of cooperation in the area of environmental protection.

The two sides discussed areas of cultural cooperation, including Haiti's participation in the Caribbean Festival of the Arts (Carifesta).

The communique said the two sides are to report to their respective political authorities "with a view to receiving the required ratification, by both sides, of the decisions of the meeting as early as possible."

The meeting which was held at the headquarters of the Caricom Secretariat here, attracted about two dozen demonstrators on the second day. The demonstrators who were organised by the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA) called for the postponment of the meeting until such time that there are improvements in the human rights situation in Haiti.

The Caricom team which included delegates from Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the Secretariat, was led by Caricom's deputy secretary-general, Frank Abdullah. Haiti's four-member delegation was headed by Edouard Vales Jean-Laurent, the country's deputy director-general, General Administration of Customs.

Letter From Hunger Striker Evans Paul Published

FL0212023289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Etienne Marineau, and Evans Paul decided on 29 November to refuse all medical care from the military hospital until the judiciary manages to make its presence felt in their case.

Yesterday, Evans Paul made public a letter in his handwriting that he wrote in the military hospital. The letter has been published in the press. In this letter, Paul says that he, Marineau, and Mesyeux decided on 29 November to begin a strike during which they will refuse all medication. This strike is in addition to the hunger strike they began on 14 November 1989.

(?Paul) says they decided to do this because, when the military authorities forced them to go to the military hospital on the evening of 17 November without authorization from the judiciary—although they are allegedly in the custody of the judiciary—they told the military they would not accept any medical care at the hospital unless their doctors Frank Thomas, Bernard Leveque, and Ralph [first name as heard] Allen were present; unless they were permitted contact with their lawyers Moyse Senatus, Jean Claude Nord, Ernest Mallebranche, and Joseph Maxi; and unless their families gave their consent.

The three militants say: We expressed our preference for a private hospital, but they ignored us.

Despite proper conduct on the part of both the military hospital personnel and the policemen guarding us, we are still extremely worried for many reasons. Security is one reason. The Dr Laine affair [founder of the National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti, allegedly taken to the military hospital with a bullet wound in the arm and murdered there by hospital personnel] is another, to say nothing of other harm we fear they might do to us, such as injecting us with germs from some incurable illness.

No treatment will do us any good when we are so worried, to say nothing of the fact that we have special around-the-clock guards, that the doors to our rooms are always open and we can hear lots of yelling and noise, and that we are forced to look at heavy-caliber weapons day and night.

What is worse, two of our lawyers, Nord and Senatus, tried twice to see us and were chased away like dogs. Furthermore, not one of our physicians has come to see us since 23 November. We only found out that they were trying to blame our doctors, 3 days after it happened, for the results of what our 40 executioners did to us.

After 16 days of a hunger strike, on 29 November, we think our health is greatly threatened by the many pills they stuff down our throats every day without our own doctors' supervision. We are on a hunger strike to make the judiciary shoulder its responsibility in this matter.

We are the victims of a plot, of manhandling, of unjust imprisonment. We must obtain justice and reparation. For this reason, we ask what the judiciary has done with the complaint we filed against those of our 40 executioners whom we have been able to identify.

We are on a hunger strike in solidarity with the family of Benson Pierre, who disappeared on 18 October, and the families of Israel and Verel Isophe and (Ragnus Lorneus), who were murdered on the night of 17 November. We are on a hunger strike to protest the way people are mistreated at military barracks and various legal or illegal prisons all over Haiti. We are on a hunger strike in solidarity with a victim of repression in Jacmel, who was dumped, three fourths dead, at the military hospital on Saturday 25 November. We are also striking in solidarity with everyone—all patriots in Haiti as well as overseas, the young and old in all strata of society—who have shouldered their responsibility for keeping the chain of solidarity together more firmly every day until the sun shines on all Haitians everywhere.

Further on Paul says that he, on his part, asks the authorities to move him back to his cell at the National Penitentiary, because he does not wish to continue to contribute to giving foreign visitors, such as the representative of the International Red Cross Committee, a false impression of prisoners' comfort. This representative came to the hospital to see them on 20 November. He was perhaps taken to see them there so he would not see the poor conditions of the prisoners at the National Penitentiary.

After devoting 16 years to the battle for real change in Haiti, I cannot put life before honor and principles, even if I am in danger. To begin with, I am ready to take all the consequences of this document, which I have decided to publish, says Evans Paul in his letter.

Paul explains that he is speaking for himself, and not for his two comrades at the military hospital with him, because he is not in communication with them. It was, therefore, not possible for the three men to write a joint letter; consequently, he has had to speak for himself alone, says Paul. Paul asks everyone to keep the chain of solidarity linked until the corn is ripe, so to speak—because it is better to die on our feet than to continue to live on our knees in Haiti, says Paul.

El Salvador

Cristiani on Bush-Gorbachev Meeting, Peace Talks

PA0112224889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2202 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani hopes that the "summit" between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which begins tomorrow, will allow "the achievement of an effective agreement to help achieve detente" in his country and in Central America.

Cristiani stressed that "it would be a great step" if an agreement is achieved between the United States and the USSR for the political situation in the region.

Cristiani said that the USSR "has the means to turn the key" so that Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega "will stop meddling in and exporting their revolutions to Central America."

During a news conference held at the presidential palace, the Salvadoran president also said that his government "is not boycotting the Central American peace plan." However, Cristiani reiterated that "under the current circumstances," he is not willing to attend the next Central American presidential summit. The president said that he had talked with his Guatemalan, Honduran, and Costa Rican colleagues to "find a new site" for the upcoming summit.

Cristiani added that his country only seeks to "solve the problem of Nicaragua's intervention in the Salvadoran conflict and its supply of weapons to the rebels" of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Cristiani said that in some countries like El Salvador, the guerrilla "exists because of the support he receives from Nicaragua and Cuba."

According to the Salvadoran president, the next presidential summit could be held in Guatemala, a country where, according to the rotation system, the summit should be held, or in Argentina or Mexico, countries which have offered their cooperation in the Central American peace process.

Regarding remarks by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who said that he is pleased by the fact that Cristiani does not want to go to Managua, Cristiani said: "That makes two of us who are happy over the fact that the meeting is not held in Nicaragua."

Speaking of the best place to hold the meeting, Cristiani added: "Let the other three, Vinicio Cerezo (Guatemala), Jose Azcona (Honduras), and Oscar Arias (Costa Rica), decide."

Cristiani Denies Persecution of Clergy, Reporters

PA0112235389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2247 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, in response to questions at a news conference, today denied that the government and Armed forces are persecuting foreign clergymen and the media.

The president admitted that some churches "have been searched or investigated by Armed Forces personnel" on the basis of information, "sometimes wrong and sometimes right," regarding the presumed involvement of clergymen with guerrillas.

Cristiani said that when the information received is false, the clergymen are turned over to diplomatic representatives of their countries of origin, and when the information is correct they have been placed in the custody "of the courts."

Referring to the media, The president said that the government and Armed Forces guarantee "the free exercise of the profession."

From the beginning of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) offensive on 11 November, the government suspended local radio and television newscasts, later resuming television newscasts.

Meanwhile, various international media sources have been warned by the authorities about the content of their reports, and a few reporters, among them one from ACAN-EFE, have had their homes searched.

"There are legal restrictions regarding the broadcasting of certain types of reports in the country," Cristiani admitted. Cristiani said that the press restrictions "have gradually been lifted." Nevertheless, he warned that "if the FMLN continues the aggression, the press' situation will have to be studied.

The president received a letter from three Salvadoran reporters who informed him of their "concern" over the risk of losing their jobs because of closure of local newscasts. "The radio newscast employees ask you, as president, to allow the resumption of radio newscasts as you did with other broadcast sources," the letter from the reporters said.

FMLN Reportedly Fires 2 SAM Rockets, No Hits

PA0112223989 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 2116 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Press Communique issued by the Salvadoran National Communication Secretariat—date not given]

[Text] FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrillas fired a SAM-7 missile on 29 November from Zacatecoluca, and on 30 November fired a similar missile, also from Zacatecoluca. Both missed their targets.

The Air Force officers involved reported that in both cases the SAM-7 missiles were detected by observer planes, which in turn warned the two Salvadoran Air Force A-37 planes that the missiles were headed toward them. The two planes were flying patrol missions in the Zacatecoluca area. Both SAM-7 missiles failed to strike their targets thanks to the professionalism of the pilots, who maneuvered to prevent the FMLN missiles from hitting them.

The FMLN continues to receive Soviet arms supplies through Cuba and Nicaragua, an action which has already been officially denounced to the entire world, and which the Salvadoran people fully repudiate. The Sandinist government has supplied the FMLN terrorists with this type of sophisticated weaponry of Soviet manufacture, which confirms that the FMLN, apart from having its general command inside Nicaraguan territory, has the military support and guidance of the Sandinist regime. Official sources believe that the SAM-7 missiles fired by the FMLN against the Air Force planes could be among the weapons that were onboard the other small plane that was set on fire by the terrorists after they had unloaded it.

As soon as the Salvadoran Government learned of the SAM-7 shipments to the FMLN, they reported it to the international community. In response to this report, the Soviet government, showing great annoyance, ordered a freeze on all arms shipments to the Ortega government, which, following orders from Fidel Castro, supplies military equipment to the FMLN terrorists. It has also been reported that an investigation is under way on the participation of mercenaries from different countries who are fighting alongside the FMLN, causing the genocide of the Salvadoran people.

Cristiani Reacts

PA0112235789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2342 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today said that the Salvadoran rebels have fired two Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles since they started their offensive on 11 November. According to Cristiani, the missiles, which "missed," were fired by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] in Zacatecoluca, in the region's center, where clashes between the Army and the rebels continued today.

Cristiani admitted he is concerned over "the FMLN's plans for strictly terrorist actions," such as "killing personalities, government officials, and relatives of Armed Forces officers."

He also said his government has not requested any international military aid because the Armed Forces "can counteract the FMLN attacks" and because "the guerrilla threat of taking power in the country by force is not real."

Cristiani also said he is willing to talk with the guerrillas only "if hostilities cease." He asserted that the FMLN actions "are linked to domestic events in Nicaragua and Cuba."

The president said he is "completely sure the Armed Forces can control the situation because the guerrillas are unable to seize power by force and do not have even the least support of the Salvadoran people."

Cristiani pointed out: "We cannot give the FMLN any chances because it is a minority armed group aided by Nicaragua and Cuba, a group which intends to seize something they have no right to."

"If the guerrillas want to dialogue, let them stop their armed actions. It is high time for them to understand that the people want peace," the president said.

He also announced that "the coffee, sugar, and cotton crops," the country's main export products, "will be harvested with Army reservists."

The government headed by Cristiani, which today completed 6 months in office, has estimated approximately $1.2 billion in economic losses resulting from the bloody clashes between the Army and the rebels since 11 November.

Cristiani Asks Presidents To Set Summit Site

PA0212214089 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 2100 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has asked Honduran, Guatemalan, and Costa Rican Presidents Jose Azcona, Vinicio Cerezo, and Oscar Arias, respectively, to decide on the site for the next Central American summit. The Salvadoran president held a news conference on the Salvadoran conflict, which has been aggravated since 11 November, when the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] started a new offensive.

Cristiani expressed his hope that a positive decision on Central America can be made in the Bush-Gorbachev summit being held this weekend in the Mediterranean Sea off Malta. Cristiani said: The superpower leaders can pull the strings of Cuba and Nicaragua so those countries will stop exporting their revolutions to Central America, mainly El Salvador, as Nicaragua has been doing. Concerning the peace talks, Cristiani insisted that the FMLN must cease hostilities if any type of pacification is to be discussed.

Cristiani Calls Reservists Into Active Duty

PA0312024389 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0203 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] In a news conference convened at the presidential palace for local and foreign correspondents, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said the Army Reserves will be pressed into active duty.

The call for the reserves was agreed upon recently during a council of ministers meeting, particularly to protect the coffee, cotton, and sugar cane harvesters. Asked whether the reservists are being called into active service to reinforce the Armed Forces against the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] attacks, Cristiani said the reservists will be used exclusively to help harvest the three products in the current season.

The FMLN terrorists are being kept at bay in San Salvador with one fourth of the Armed Forces strength. The reservists will only make sure the harvesters can work in absolute safety, Cristiani added.

Army, U.S. Work To Counter Rebels' Missiles

PA0312231389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1837 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Armed Forces officers and U.S. military advisers have been studying measures to counter the rebels' surface-to-air missiles ever since the first two missiles were shot against Salvadoran Air Force planes last week.

"We have already taken tactical measures and are now studying technical measures," said a Salvadoran officer, who asked not to be identified, to ACAN-EFE.

U.S. sources have affirmed that U.S. military advisers are cooperating in the defensive preparations and that at least one adviser saw the surface-to-air missile shot by the rebels in Zacatecoluca, approximately 50 km from San Salvador.

The "tactical" measures consist of adopting specific flight patterns that make it difficult for the missiles to hit the targets—planes or helicopters. These aircraft have actively participated in the counterinsurgency operations since the guerrillas initiated their last offensive on 11 November.

According to the Salvadoran officer, some of these measures were taken when it was reported that a light plane that crashed in Salvadoran territory, allegedly coming from Nicaragua, carried Soviet-made "SAM-7" surface-to-air missiles.

The measures taken—flying lower, breaking the flight pattern several times during a flight plan, and assigning a person to watch and warn if a missile is shot—explains why the two "SAM-7" missiles shot by the rebels missed the "A-37" Dragonfly attack jet and the reconnaissance plane. "Technical" preparations include equipping the planes and helicopters with missile "distraction" systems, and the officer said that these "can only be installed by our allies" (the United States).

The great effectiveness of the "SAM-7" missiles—they find the target by following the heat it produces—can be partially neutralized by creating alternate heat sources that deflect the missile from its route, as well as with other systems.

Some analysts believe that the matter was discussed by Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Salvadoran Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Maxwell Thurman, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Southern Command, during their long meeting on 30 November. The U.S. military advisers are under Thurman's command. However, neither Salvadoran military sources nor the U.S. Embassy confirmed this information.

The Salvadoran Air Force has 140 aircraft—63 planes and 76 helicopters—and the same amount of pilots. Observers indicated that the Salvadoran Air Force has played an important role in responding to the guerrilla's offensive and has inflicted many casualties on the rebels.

FMLN Leader: USSR Never Supplied Weapons

PA0212044789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0311 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Bush will not be able to pressure Gorbachev into suspending aid to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] because the Soviet Union has never helped us with weapons, a guerrilla leader told AFP today, 1 December, in San Salvador.

Minister on Soviet Call for Stop to Military Aid

PA0112205989 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Recent reports indicate that the Soviet Union has ordered Cuba and Nicaragua to stop their military aid to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and to expel the FMLN commanders from Nicaraguan territory.

With regard to that odd international reaction, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro has said that the Salvadoran Government hopes that the statement becomes a reality, because it would be a contribution toward peace in Central America.

[Begin Pacas recording] I have learned about that statement and we are, of course, very pleased with it. As you know, the Salvadoran issue will be on the agenda of the summit meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev. We hope that the statement becomes a reality, because it would contribute toward regional peace. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Pacas said the Soviet statement is further proof that the FMLN is outside the international context and that it lacks credibility.

As for a UN draft resolution, which was approved by 96 votes, 34 abstentions, and 1 rejection from the Salvadoran UN delegation, Foreign Minister Pacas said El Salvador rejected the draft resolution, which expresses deep UN concern about the Salvadoran situation, because it does not fairly assess it.

[Begin Pacas recording] According to my knowledge, it is a resolution, or rather a draft resolution. I have not received the text of the document itself. I am waiting for the document. The draft resolution was issued by the Third UN Commission, which is precisely discussing the human rights problem.

We rejected the draft resolution—it is a draft resolution because the commissions have to vote first and then it goes to the UN plenum—because it does not fairly assess the Salvadoran situation. [end recording]

Concerning the departure of U.S. citizens from El Salvador, Pacas said that foreigners have a right to leave the country at any time, especially amid conditions of violence. Pacas added, however, that the government is trying to protect them as much as possible.

Communique on Nicaraguan, Cuban 'Intervention'

PA0112222789 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 1943 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Press communique issued by the National Information Center in San Salvador on 1 December]

[Text] National sectors have rejected the Sandinist meddling. In response to the overwhelming proof of Nicaraguan Daniel Ortega's involvement in supplying the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] with sophisticated weapons, thus allowing the terrorist hordes to continue their aggression against the Salvadoran people, various national sectors have spoken out against the Marxist intervention.

Fortunately, said the professionals, laborers, peasants, and businessmen, the two [as heard] Nicaraguan airplanes transporting heavy weapons for the FMLN are clear proof that Daniel Ortega's Sandinist government, with the support of Fidel Castro's Cuban Government, have continued supporting the FMLN. The national sectors pointed out that the Salvadoran people definitively reject this attack on the democratic system and freedom which they have always struggled to maintain.

Cuba and Nicaragua's communist intervention has been rejected by the very USSR which, according to international news dispatches, is demanding that Daniel Ortega suspend weapons shipments to the FMLN and expell the terrorist commanders from Nicaragua.

Spokesmen for the various national sectors said that this international reaction has resulted from the people's firm position against the FMLN's terrorist criminals, and it has shown the entire world that the Salvadoran people are defending their democratization process and freedom.

Government Radio Criticizes Union-FMLN Links

PA0212012889 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 2308 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Salvadoran people. It has been demonstrated that labor organizations like the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers], CRIPDES [Christian Committee for Displaced Salvadorans], (FECMASAN), and others are simply politial fronts of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] because their leaders have directly participated in the terrorist offensive against honest and hard-working citizens.

An example of this is UNTS terrorist Guillermo Rojas, who led many youths to their deaths deceived by false communist mottos. These people will have on their consciences—if they have any—the spilled blood of children, young people, elderly people, and women who fell victim to the abuses of these vile murderers.

Say no to the false union leaders. Say yes to peace and democracy!

Commentary on Need for U.S. To Change Policy

PA0412020089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0031 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Those who at other times went up on the terraces of their homes in the elite Escalon and San Benito residential areas to see the show of the Dragonfly planes and the helicopter gunships strafing and bombing the guerrilla positions in the San Salvador Volcano now run, panic-stricken, to protect themselves under their beds. The helicopters have been pointing their machine guns and rockets directly over the San Salvador residential areas since 11 November, but the show has turned into a tragedy.

The guerrilla columns appear and disappear as if by magic in the San Salvador residential areas that now have nearly 2 million residents. Thirty minutes later, the Army trucks and light tanks show up bringing the elite troops. For 9 years they have been trained to land in any type of terrain and operate implacably in the rural areas of the country. They were trained and psychologically conditioned to get the most out of everything, including mass executions such as at El Mozote in 1981, at the Las Hojas cooperative, and at the Sumpul River, including many other massacres.

The U.S. counterinsurgent strategy, based on the traumatic experience of the Vietnam war that led to the low-intensity doctrine, has failed. At the cost of $4.5 billion, the strategy planned to triple the army and implement a political model that would breathe life into the terrible image of the military dictatorships, deactivate the revolutionary process, stop the reorganization of the people's movement, and isolate the rebel pockets from the guerrilla forces and far from the important centers.

At the end of 9 years, the results of this strategy are chaotic. The soldiers from the elite Atlacatl Battalion, with their faces painted green and black—field camouflage to lose themselves among the trees—quickly arrive at the entrance of the Escalon residential area. Many are very obviously under the influence of drugs. One of them has a finger hanging from an ear lobe, as a war trophy. They are going to recover the terrain lost in the area where the oligarchs, the Americans, and the Army hierarchy live. The doors to the mansions are opened by the impact of the 90-mm recoilless cannons.

As opposed to what happened during the fighting in the people's neighborhoods such as Zacamil, where approximately 300,000 people live, the Air Force did not carry out indiscriminate bombings in the elite residential areas. However, in the northern area of the capital city the bombings seem to have done more harm than the 1986 earthquake.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] offensive tested the U.S. offensive before the eyes of the world. When the FMLN hit some army position on the war fronts, the squads or the security corps captured or slaughtered people in the hamlets.

Now they are still doing the same thing, except that the killings are those of the Jesuit priests, the places burned are homes in the densely populated neighborhoods and the UN headquarters, and those accused of collaborating with the FMLN are the episcopal churches. The strategy is the same. The FMLN continues to strike at and mock the Armed Forces. Far from diminishing in number, it has increased in number. The persecution of the church, the indiscriminate bombings, the press censorship, and, above all, the apparent direction taken by the situation as a result of the Armed Forces' leadership have shown the world that nothing has changed. The military continues to be in command, and Cristiani's moderation was but a costly makeover.

The U.S. analysts are beginning to react. After 9 years of investing at all levels to put an end to the capital and the principal cities of the country with a strategic siege, with the theater of operations in the trouble spots, and without any prospect of controlling the situation, the order of the day in the halls of Congress is a change of policy and the promotion of negotiation. All the world is suffering deeply, without the hope of a change of policy. What the U.S. Congress is studying is whether it will continue with that policy which does not change at all, which protects the assassins of Monsignor Romero, the four U.S. nuns, Ignacio Ellacuria, and five more Jesuits. It is studying whether it is going to continue to support a fascist party and a criminal-ridden Armed Forces and thus condemn this part of the world so close to their borders to terrible suffering, or whether the time of change has arrived in the United States. The policy toward El Salvador must be changed to achieve the goal of democracy so that pluralism will give way to democracy, justice, and peace. The United States can contribute to peace in El Salvador, but in order to do so it must change its policy.

Government Communique Foresees End of FMLN

PA0212213489 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 1920 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Communique from the National Communications Secretariat, issued in San Salvador on 1 December 1989—live or recorded]

[Text] International news implicitly states that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists' end is near because—if they do not get aid from their sponsors, meaning dictators Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega—they will have no other choice but to accept the defeat that the people have inflicted on them with their rejection.

It has been learned that the Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua has ordered the Sandinist and Cuban regimes to stop supplying weapons to the FMLN terrorists, thus confirming El Salvador's reports that Nicaragua is interfering in our country's internal affairs.

Previous reports indicate that the Nicaraguan Government not only sends weapons to the Salvadoran subversives, which are helped by internationalist brigades, but also allows the use of Nicaraguan territory so that the FMLN terrorists may have training camps, safehouses, and radio communication centers and receive other types of logistical support.

News agencies add that the so-called FMLN final offensive against the Salvadoran people angered the Soviets, particularly when a twin-engine Cessna with Nicaraguan registration crashed in Canton Piedra Pacha, El Transito Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department on 11 November, while carrying weapons for the Salvadoran subversives. This provided new and clear evidence of the Nicaraguan interference.

Upon learning about the military defeat sustained by the FMLN and the international discredit it earned when talking about peace while carrying out criminal aggression against our people, Sandinist officials have publicly stated that a high price was paid for the aid given to the FMLN because they were reproached and recriminated by the Soviet Union, and they are about to lose the 25 February elections.

We must remain alert because both Cuba and Nicaragua must comply with what the Soviet Union asks, given the upcoming summit between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev scheduled for this weekend in Malta, in the Mediterranean Sea.

[Issued by] National Communications Secretariat

Terrorist Reveals FMLN Ties With Nicaragua

PA0312031989 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0222 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Report by unidentified journalist—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] A captured FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorist has given additional proof of Nicaragua's interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador. The terrorist, Oscar Alberto Chicas Hernandez, a.k.a. Chema, was presented to the media at the general headquarters of the Treasury Police. He was captured in Ciudad Merliot, where he had been an activist in the FPL [People's Liberation Forces] clandestine ranks for 1 and ½ years. Chema explained he had received all his training in Managua, Nicaragua.

[Chicas] "The man in charge told me I had been chosen to go for political-military training in Managua, Nicaragua. I was given a certain amount of money to travel to Guatemala. I went by land to Guatemala City and then by air to Managua. I was met by a member of the FMLN in Managua and he took me to a safe house that the FMLN has in Nicaragua."

He also said that, in his opinion, the FMLN has been defeated and that it should join the country's political process.

"I think the FMLN has no other choice but to accept that it has been defeated and join the country's political life. "

He added that all the labor unions in the capital have been infiltrated by terrorists members.

"The labor unions in general have been infiltrated—perhaps not all the directorate members or the workers, but most of the people have been participating in one way or another."

The terrorist, Chicas Hernandez—from whom the authorities seized two .45 caliber pistols, one 38mm pistol, and ammunition—said that he has been treated well by the Treasury Police even though he actively participated in sabotage actions against the national economy and other terrorist actions.

'Terrorists' Involved in Attack in Custody

PA0212044389 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0210 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] During a news conference at the National Guard headquarters, National Guard Director Colonel Juan Carlos Carrillo Schlenker said that the situation in the area under his responsibility is under control even though there are some small and sporadic confrontations that the terrorists carry out in an attempt to frighten the civilian population.

[Begin Carrillo recording] At this moment I can tell you that the sector is under control. There are always some small groups that cause damage and frighten people, but we are working to put an end to problems in this area. As you know, this is a densely populated, large area and the terrain is difficult. There are many gullies, creeks, and heights; the terrain is not flat, it is a difficult area. We are working door to door to ensure that no weapons or explosives have been left behind. We want to make sure that when people return to their homes they will have no problems with explosives that will cause more damage than that already caused. [end recording]

Likewise, Col Carrillo reported that in addition to a large amount of weapons and war equipment seized from the terrorists by the National Guard, the guardsmen have also seized 41 rifles of various calibers, an M-60 machine gun, a Chinese rocket, a grenade launcher, a 160-mm mortar, 4 pistols, grenades, sticks of dynamite, 4 LAW's, and other war equipment. Carrillo added that the guardsmen have inflicted 105 dead and 59 wounded on the terrorist groups, and that the National Guard regrets the deaths of 24 guardsmen and 89 who have been wounded.

Concerning the arrested terrorists, Col Carrillo said that the men involved in the attack on the General Staff, which resulted in the deaths of several civilians, have been remanded to the appropriate authorities. Carrillo added that another group of persons, whose direct participation in the attack was not proven, have been released.

[Begin Carrillo recording] We have been investigating this case for a long time. You may remember that in late October an attack was launched against the General Staff and military complex installations. The National Guard was assigned the task of investigating this incident, and today we have remanded those involved in the attack against the Armed Forces General Staff to the 2nd Penal Court judge.

We have released Lia Margarita Lopez de Leon—these names are in the communique—Jose Vidal de Enamorado, Elba J Alfaro, Jose Francisco Pascorante, Ana Julia Rodriguez de Quinonez, and Julia Eugenia River, after proving that they were not involved in the attack. According to the investigation we carried out, these people were not involved in the attack. However, those who have been remanded before the 2nd Penal Court are: Ulises Serrano Lorente, Juan Antonio Verti Quinonez, Jose Horacio Roman Rios, Jose Eduardo Sanchez Castillo, Luis Gustavo Lopez Magana, Alex Cantor y Escobar Flores, Jose Candelario Duran Alvarez, and Rodolfo Campos Benavides. It has been proven that these persons were involved in the attack on the General Staff installations in late October. [end recording]

In conclusion, Col Carrillo Schlenker thanked the Salvadoran people for the help given the Armed Forces, especially the National Guard. He asked the people to continue to trust the institution and to offer their help until the terrorist groups have been eradicated from the homeland.

Col Ponce To Be Called in Jesuit Priests Case

PA0112213389 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Report by Alejandro Cubillas]

[Text] Salvadoran Attorney General Mauricio Eduardo Colorado has said that the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff will be summoned to testify in the case of the murdered Jesuit priests. The Salvadoran official said that Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce must say what military unit of the security corps was guarding the area around the UCA [Central American University] the day the crime was committed.

[Begin Colorado recording] At this time we consider it necessary for us to summon Col Ponce and for him to tell us the name of the person, security corps, or headquarters responsible for patrolling the area where the crime was committed. Once we know who was in the area, we will also summon them to see what they have to say. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the Attorney General said that the amendments to the penal and penal procedural codes approved last week by the Legislative Assembly will contribute toward the legal struggle against the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]

[Begin Colorado recording] That the Legislative Assembly is fulfilling its historic task at this moment is of great significance. The Salvadoran soldier who gives his life for freedom is fulfilling his mission and the legally appointed authorities are fulfilling their mission. [end recording]

According to the government official, at such times of uncertainty created by the increase in violence, the Salvadoran people must remain calm and not lose hope.

Colonel Ponce Discusses FMLN Offensive

PA0212015389 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 30 Nov 89 p 3

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce has said that in light of the possibility of the use of missiles by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], the Salvadoran Air Force is taking precautions and has changed its flight tactics or adopted new ones.

"The Armed Forces is determined to confront them, and to achieve their goal the rebels will have to step over the bodies of every single soldier," Col Ponce said.

Col Ponce also said that the arrest of U.S. citizen Jennifer Jean Casolo, who was covering up an FMLN safehouse, is a hard blow to the terrorists because Casolo was responsible for bringing congressional staff and representatives of churches and other organizations into the country. These people apparently came to the country to provide humanitarian aid to the displaced.

Ponce also said that many internationalists join the terrorist groups, thus violating the rights of all the Salvadoran people. Ponce said that the leaders of the front groups defined their positions when they joined the FMLN to carry out the so-called final offensive, which has proven to be a total failure because the Salvadoran people believe in democracy and not communism.

The chief of the General Staff also met with foreign correspondents. He said that the FMLN currently has the support of only Nicaragua, Cuba, and Russia [as published], but they do not have the essential support of the Salvadoran people; therefore, they are doomed to political-military failure. All the FMLN has left is its propaganda tactics at the national and international level.

Col Ponce talked about the casualties inflicted on the FMLN terrorists through 0600 on 28 November. Ponce said that 1,680 rebels had been killed and more than double that number wounded. Col Ponce added that the Army regrets the heroic deaths of 398 soldiers and approximately 800 wounded in clashes since 11 November.

Further On Army's Views of Guerrilla Offensive

PA0112215489 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Report by Violeta Polanco]

[Text] According to statements by Salvadoran Armed Forces spokesman Major Mauricio Chavez Caceres, the situation in the Escalon neighborhood and surrounding areas is slowly returning to normal. In regard to the hostages that the rebels were holding in their homes, Maj Chavez said that the situation changed yesterday morning and that this allowed the evacuation to begin.

[Begin Chavez recording] The situation changed during the night. At approximately 0300, most of the hostages were allowed to leave. We know, from information we have received, that there are still hostages being held, especially in the area surrounding the Escalon neighborhood. The Army suspended its military movement into the northern sector because heavy fighting developed, especially in the area where the Atlacatl Battalion troops had been deployed. [end recording]

Maj Chavez also talked about the casualties suffered by the Army and those inflicted on the rebels during the clashes.

[Begin Chavez recording] As a result of this fighting, the Atlacatl Battalion inflicted eight terrorist casualties. Two more rebel casualties were inflicted by troops stationed in the lower section. The Army regrets the deaths of 17 soldiers who gave their lives for peace and democracy in this country. [end recording]

Chavez added that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] military offensive has failed. Proof of this, Chavez added, is the number of rebels who have surrendered at the various military garrisons.

[Begin Chavez recording] It was proven that the planned offensive failed. What can we expect? What is happening at this moment: attacks on prominent figures; attacks against the economy and installations; frightening the civilian population, which is what has been going on for the past 2 days in La Cima, La Sultana, and Guadalupe neighborhood. In these areas the rebels fire on vehicles and homes. Today we saw a number of houses destroyed by dynamite. This was also reported by the eyewitnesses who lived through this. That is the future we see regarding the FMLN. [end recording]

Meanwhile, military sources have denied rumors regarding the possibility of bombing the Escalon neighborhood. The Air Force is using its aircraft to support the infantry and has tried not to hurt the civilian population, the source added.

Defense Ministry Communique Refutes Charges

PA0412033789 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 0150 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces advise the citizens in general of the following:

1. Regarding the various letters or pamphlets that have circulated suspiciously and clandestinely, immorally slandering, without any logic or credibility, specific persons and the armed institution, making them appear as having been signed by commands or groups of young officers, the Armed Forces firmly reject all types of slander and charges against its members or the military institution. This type of letter or pamphlet is typical of those known as gray propaganda, which began to circulate in the early part of November. This type of propaganda is nothing new in our country. Since the early part of the eighties, the terrorist Mena Sandoval has continually used it.

2. Regarding the telephone calls or personal notes addressed to chiefs or officers of the Armed Forces by Mena Sandoval and others, trying futilely to undermine the morale of the military personnel, the Armed Forces publicly state that the military institution is loyal to its principles, to its government, and, above all, to a democratic system of peace and liberty, and not to a puppet or authoritarian government where neither liberty nor democracy exists. It notes that those persons who have engaged in making such telephone calls are not fit to call themselves Salvadorans, because they are betraying their fatherland, their government, and their families, and they are following all the precedents of the terrorist leaders, who are the ones directing this genocide against our suffering Salvadoran people.

These terrorist criminals resort to this type of psychological tactic of unfounded rumors and easily manageable propaganda during difficult times, when they feel they are lost or are desperate. Having failed in their so-called final offensive of 72 hours, they have found themselves with the anguishing task of staging the offensive in this manner.

The Armed Forces of El Salvador reiterate their steadfast will to preserve peace and the system of democratic liberties which 97 percent of all the Salvadoran voters supported. At the same time, they reject the Marxist-Leninist system and offer their total support to our country's democratic system. They also reiterate that at this time the military institution is more united than ever in the defense of the fatherland and that the strength that maintains this solid unity is the blood shed by our soldiers to defend the fatherland, to defend our ideals, customs, religion, democracy, and liberty.

Finally, the citizens in general are called upon not to be deceived by the many rumors and psychological pressures, which in the textbooks of Marxist theory are explained clearly as a form of struggle to achieve power.

Treasury Police Report Arrest of 2 U.S. Citizens

PA0112152489 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuzcatlan in Spanish 1317 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The Treasury Police have reported the discovery of a clandestine medical clinic in a local COMADRES [Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Missing and Murdered Political Prisoners of El Salvador] office, saying that they found a large quantity of medicines there which were to be used to attend to FMLN terrorists wounded in recent fighting against the Armed Forces.

Police spokesmen noted that they had arrested the following Salvadoran citizens at the office: Roberto Antonio Hernandez, Carlos Alberto Chacon, Isidro Gutierrez, Maria Sofia Alas, Milagro Mendoza, Rosa Cortillo, and Apolonia Camilla.

The following U.S. citizens were also arrested: (M.R. Hoover) and (Michael Eugene O'Riley), who were working with the medicines and FMLN documents.

It has also been reported that the police confiscated a large amount of material to manufacture explosives in the San Sebastian neighborhood of Ciudad Delgado.

Rosa Chavez on Malta Summit, Church Efforts

PA0212202689 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, the auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, said today that the meeting between Pope John Paul II and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to be held on Friday, 1 December, will be important for peace in Central America. Msgr Rosa Chavez made these statements a few hours before a summit meeting between the two world powers to be held on the Mediterranean Sea.

[Begin Rosa Chavez recording] This is the first time in history that the pope, the Catholic Church's top leader, meets with the top leader of international communism, who on this occasion is Mr Gorbachev. They will meet in an atmosphere of dialogue. It is strange to think how only a few years ago one could never have imagined such a meeting would ever take place.

The pope is very aware of the influence the Soviet Union and the United States have on Central America. I believe the fact that the Central American issue will be a central point in the agenda to be discussed by the leaders of the two world powers proves those two countries' influence in Central America. The Central American issue will be a central point of discussion, and that proves our problem will not be solved unless agreements are reached up there in the world of the great decisions. I feel those agreements could soon be reached. [end recording]

As for the current Salvadoran situation, Msgr Rosa Chavez described the silencing of weapons and the prevalence of reason as a great challenge. Msgr Rosa Chavez said that to achieve those goals Salvadorans must make themselves worthy of peace.

[Begin Rosa Chavez recording] We must be worthy of peace. This is a point we had never discussed, but perhaps we still do not deserve peace. As long as our people's hearts are poisoned with hatred, resentment, and revenge, we will not be worthy of living in peace. I believe that during these days of fighting the death of our people is a serious problem, but perhaps the most serious problem is that our people's hearts are being poisoned. We must be very clear. There is poison on both sides. Sometimes in an attempt to encourage those who are fighting we fall into methods that move peace away from us. [end recording]

Rosa Chavez said the church will continue making efforts to attain the resumption of the talks with new guarantees. He added that this effort has international and diplomatic support.

[Begin Rosa Chavez recording] The madness of violence reaches everywhere, poisons everything, and suffocates the country. I believe it is urgent that we give oxygen and hope back to our country. We must give way to reason again. I believe at this point the government must study the situation with an open mind and put things into perspective without thinking about immediate results.

Restriction on ideas may have an immediate result, but it could be very negative for the country's recovery of hope and the neutralization of violence in the long run.

It might be strange, but violence does not neutralize violence. I believe violence begets more violence. [end recording]

Msgr Rosa Chavez added that a meeting of 45 Central American bishops concluded in San Jose, Costa Rica on Thursday, 30 November. The bishops issued a communique urging the conflicting Salvadoran sides to resume a responsible and sincere dialogue.

Bishop on 'Climate of Persecution' Against Clergy

PA0312221989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1912 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Dec (ACAN-EFE) — San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez today reported the existence of "signs of a climate of persecution" against the clergy of the Catholic Church and other churches in El Salvador.

Rosa Chavez announced he plans to meet soon with the High Command "to learn if this situation is due to the nervousness caused by the fighting (between the army and the guerrillas) or if this is a systematic persecution."

"There are many cases of religious men receiving serious accusations. We will discuss each of the cases with the High Command," the auxiliary bishop said after today's homily.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani rejected the existence of any persecution against religious leaders in El Salvador during a news conference on 1 December.

The auxiliary bishop warned: "The Catholic Church and other churches, along with the unarmed and defenseless people, have experienced the shadow of the cross and a lack of understanding, which in some cases reaches the limits of a true persecution."

Rosa Chavez criticized the approval of reforms to the penal code and the penal process through which the government has issued new measures to punish "terrorist" crimes.

"The establishment of anti-terrorist laws suitable for outrageous abuses of power to eliminate adversaries is a reason for great concern," Rosa Chavez said.

According to Rosa Chavez, the number of people "arrested or missing" increased this week. However, he did not provide the information gathered by the Legal Assistance Office, an organization linked to the Archbishopric.

Rosa Chavez also condemned the "brutal assassination" of former Supreme Court President Francisco Guerrero on 28 November—which the government attributes to the guerrillas—as well as the death of Salvadoran photographer Eloy Guevara Paiz, killed by a bullet on 1 December.

Rosa Chavez reported that Priest Adrian Sanchez has been the object of "serious accusations," and added that "there is much destruction in his parish in Cuscatancingo neighborhood (in northern San Salvador)."

"This is why San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas is visiting him this morning—to express support for him through his presence," Rosa Chavez said.

Following the outbreak of the rebel offensive on 11 November, six Jesuits were assassinated by men wearing military uniforms, according to witnesses.

Several foreign and Salvadoran clergymen, among them Lutheran Bishop Medardo Gomez and Baptist Church Bishop Edgar Palacios, had to leave the country "for security reasons," church sources reported. Some clergymen have been expelled to their countries of origin after being accused of "helping the guerrillas."

It seems the military authorities, in their effort to restore order, have taken as their criteria the well-known saying "think bad and you are bound to be right," Rosa Chavez said.

Archbishop Rivera y Damas said, following the assassination of the Jesuits, that "there are vehement suspicions that the authors of this are members of the army or are in complicity with the army."

However, some of the Cristiani Government officials like Salvadoran Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas have held the guerrillas responsible for this group assassination.

According to the Catholic Church Legal Assistance Office, 160 people "have been victims of violence" since the guerrilla offensive began on 11 November.

On 16 November, six Jesuit priests—five Spaniards and one Salvadoran—and two women were murdered by 30 men in uniforms who were heavily armed.

Church Workers, Including 1 American, Arrested

PA0112173489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1620 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Dominican Order Superior Juan Carlos Fernandez Cid reported in Managua today that a Spanish priest and four workers of the Dominican Order—three Salvadorans and one U.S. citizen—were arrested in San Salvador on 30 November.

The Dominican superior told ACAN-EFE that the Spanish priest Carlos Diez Rojo; Salvadorans Jose Santana, the driver; Estela Cruz Bustamante, director of the order's child care center; and Santiago de Jesus Vasquez, director of the "22 April" neighborhood choir; as well as a U.S. volunteer called Scott, were still under arrest in San Salvador today.

He stated that he had contacted Spanish Embassy officials in San Salvador this morning, and they confirmed that the San Salvador Treasury Police had arrested the priest Diez Rojo and the four workers.

According to Fernandez Cid, a group of policemen raided the parish center in Ciudad Credisa, a San Salvador neighborhood, and arrested the five persons after conducting a search.

The priest was visiting San Salvador and had arrived in the city 2 days before the guerrillas launched their offensive on 11 November.

A Spanish Embassy official in San Salvador is presently making efforts to visit Carlos Diez and the other persons arrested, in the presence of Salvadoran officials.

Without any official explanations, two priests of the Dominican Order—Spanish citizen Miguel Anduez and U.S. citizen Jaime Barnee—were expelled from El Salvador 5 days ago.

Spanish Priest Arrested in San Salvador

PA0112160089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1522 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)— Dominican Order Superior Jose Carlos Fernandez Cid reported today in Managua that the police in San Salvador have arrested Spanish priest Carlos Diez Rojo.

According to Fernandez Cid, who is also a Spanish priest, heavily armed men raided the Dominicans' chapel in San Salvador yesterday and arrested Father Diez Rojo, who came to visit El Salvador 15 days ago.

Fernandez Cid said that he fears for Father Diez Rojo's life, and he demanded his prompt release.

The source told ACAN-EFE that the arrested priest has worked in Nicaragua for the past 5 years.

Dominican Priest Released, Others Still Held

PA0112235589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2257 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 1 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Dominican Order Superior Jose Carlos Fernandez Cid reported in Managua today that Dominican Order Priest Carlos Diez Rojo, a Spaniard, who was arrested yesterday by Salvadoran Treasury Police, was freed today.

The three Salvadoran and one U.S. citizen arrested at the same time remain in prison, Spanish Priest Fernandez Cid told ACAN-EFE.

Dominican Priest Diez Rojo was transferred from the prison to the Spanish Embassy in San Salvador, where he will spend the night. On 2 December, he will travel to Managua, the source said.

The Salvadorans who remain under detention are: Jose Santana, the driver; Estela Cruz Bustamante, director of the order's parochial child care center; and Santiago de Jesus Vasquez, director of the "22 April" neighborhood choir.

In addition, a U.S. volunteer named Scott, is under detention in San Salvador.

The priest arrived in San Salvador to visit 2 days before the guerrillas launched their spectacular offensive on 11 November against the right-wing government of Alfredo Cristiani.

Diez Rojo was arrested last night, without explanation, by police who raided the parochial center of Ciudad Credisa, a San Salvador neighborhood.

The priest lives in Managua, where he has served for the past 5 years.

Spain Asks Release of Episcopal Priest, 10 Others

PA0312014289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0052 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Madrid, 2 Dec (EFE)—Diplomatic sources today confirmed that Spanish Ambassador to San Salvador Francisco Cadiz is carrying "constant negotiations" before the Salvadoran authorities to get the release of Reverend Luis Serrano Llorente. Rev Serrano Llorente was born in Spain and is a naturalized Salvadoran.

According to reports from San Salvador, the Episcopalian priest, and 10 other priests, have been held at the National Guard General Headquarters in San Salvador since 20 November.

According to reports, Serrano Llorente is accused of participating in the 10 November attack against installations of the Salvadoran Armed Forces' General Command.

International Peace Brigade sources today in Barcelona (northeastern Spain) said that the 11 priests are members of the Salvadoran Episcopal Church and that, following their arrest, they have been tortured.

The communique issued by the International Peace Brigade adds that it fears that, because of the state of emergency in El Salvador, the priests may be tried by a military court that could sentence them to death.

The priests arrested with Luis Serrano Llorente are: Bertis Antonio Quinonez, Luis Gustavo Magana, Jose Candelario Aguilar, Domingo Gaitan, Randolfo Campos, Jose Vidal, Alejandro Tovar, Jose Emilio Alonso, Eduardo Castillo, and Horacio Guzman. The nationalities of these priests was not disclosed.

FMLN Links To Church Groups Exposed

PA0212031489 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 1911 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The National Guard has captured the actual perpetrators, as well as accomplices and harborers, in the case of the attack on the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff on 30 October.

The National Guard reported that it arrested 15 people last week at various places in here in San Salvador and other persons at the offices of the so-called Awareness for Spiritual and Economic Recovery of Man [Concientizacion para Recuperacion Espiritual y Economica del Hombre, CREDHO], at the Episcopal Church on 63 South Avenue and Olimpica Avenue in San Salvador. Several persons who were held hostage there on 30 October later appeared at the central police headquarters to report the abuse.

When National Guard personnel began the subsequent investigation that same day, it was discovered that the arrested persons had committed other actions in violation of our laws and against the country's security. After determining that this Episcopal church was visited by persons involved in subversive activities and that it harbored a group that is an FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] front, the place was search and it was discovered that, in addition to the church, offices of CREDHO also operated there—CREDHO is an affiliate of an organization they call (Diacomias); that 60 persons are employed there; that most of those persons are not parishioners, but CREDHO employees; that CREDHO's director is a priest of Spanish origin named Luis Serrano Lorente; and that this priest is now a naturalized Salvadoran.

There the National Guard personnel arrested Jose Horacio Guzman Rivas, Jose Eduardo Sanchez Castillo, Luis Gustavo Lopez Magana, Jose Vidal Enamorado Diaz, Elba Ruth Alfaro Valencia, Alex Antonio Tovar Flores, Jose Candelario Aguilar Alvarez, and Randolfo Campo Benavides. In connection with the same case, they also arrested (Juan Antonio Versico Nunez), Ana Julio Rodriguez, and (Jose Francisco Pastoranges) at various places in the Ciudad Satelite neighborhood. Later on, Luis Serrano Lorente, pastor of this Anglican church, was arrested in the Lomas Verdes neighborhood. Julio Cesar Castro Ramirez and Julio Eugenia Aguilera Escobar were later arrested in Santa Ana, and, lastly, Aida Margarita Gomez de Leon was arrested in the Don Bosco residential neighborhood in Santa Tecla.

Serrano said he is the director of CREDHO and responsible for the aforementioned church. He asserted that he learned on 29 October that in the churchyard two trucks were loaded with explosives, which were hurled the next day at the military complex of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff. He decided to remain silent about this, thereby covering for the terrorist criminals who murder humble working people. Serrano also said that CREDHO is financed by a front group called (Diacomias), which has no legal status, but is the channel for aid that is sent in cash by so-called solidarity churches and associations organized in Sweden, Britain, Netherlands, Canada, the United States, and Australia. This money is distributed to Lutheran, Catholic, Emanuel Baptist, and Episcopal churches, as well as to the Foundation for Promotion of Cooperatives [Fundacion Promotora de Cooperativas, FUNPROCOOP] and the Federation of Cooperatives for Development [Federacion de Cooperativas para el Desarrollo, FEDECOOPADE]. These groups comprise (Diacomias) and twice a month, one representative from each group meets at the Episcopal Church to discuss distribution of these large amounts of money, most of which, he said, is delivered to low income communities they have organized that are directed by the FMLN front groups.

In his testimony, Serrano said that he is CREDHO's representative in (Diacomias), which groups four churches and two FMLN front groups in the cooperatives sector. The representatives are: for the Catholic church, Priest Octavio Cruz; for the FPL [People's Liberation Forces]—Lutheran—Medardo Gomez of the PCS [Salvadoran Communist Party]; for the Manuel

Baptist church, Pedro Morataya of the FAR-RN [Revolutionary Armed Forces—Nicaraguan Armed Forces]; for the ERP [People's Revolutionary Army]—FUNPROCOOP—its representative is Rene Ramos; and for the FEDECOOPADE, Juan Pablo Castillo, which means that the (Diacomia) group, which recently has been called a coordinating council, is influenced by the FMLN.

Meanwhile, the National Guard reports that before the terrorist offensive began, 650,000 colones disappeared from the CREDHO offices, which means the funds have been concealed elsewhere; a search is underway for the documents to prove that the money is missing. The stolen money was given to the criminal terrorists who perpetrated this attack against the Salvadoran people.

(Juan Antonio Versico Quinonez) said he is CREDHO's coordinator and co-director, and that CREDHO is part of a group called (Diacomias), which is influenced by FMLN terrorist criminals who are in each of the (Diacomias) groups. Since 10 November, anticipating the crisis that would be created by the terrorist offensive, the (Diacomias) groups received large sums of money. Meanwhile, days before the criminal activity, CREDHO received 50,000 colones for the communities it has organized in the vicinity of the metropolitan area. It was later proven that a week before the offensive began, CREDHO had already built up a large amount of food supplies, and had gathered a group of 200 individuals displaced from poor neighborhoods.

Julio Cesar Castro Ramirez said he was chief of CREDHO's farming department. On 29 October, Castro slept at the CREDHO facilities while individuals prepared two trucks using explosives with manufactured tubes (tubos hechizos) with which they attacked the Armed Forces Joint General Staff's military complex. Treatment was provided because Castro's brother, Hector Ulises Castro Ramirez and another terrorist known by the pseudonym Mario Ulises are members of the terrorist group—a faction of the FAL [Armed Forces of Liberation].

CREDHO employee Castro Ramirez helped to install the explosives during the night of 29-30 October along with other individuals. He also disclosed that he has visited several countries, including Nicaragua, and that the day after the attack on the Joint General Staff, the Catholic church was informed of the incident through (Diacomias), and that Reverend Luis Serrano Lorente did not approve of the action that had been perpetrated, but he decided to keep silent concerning this crime against the people.

Castro Ramirez added that CREDHO has five cooperatives that provide assistance in different parts of the country, but three of them are fronts. They apparently receive help in the form of monthly sums of up to 50,000 colones. Castro Ramirez said that there are other cooperatives that pass as military aid cooperatives. Hence, leaders of FMLN front groups are frequently at the Episcopal church.

As for the other employees, all of their statements coincide with regard to individuals who stayed at the CREDHO headquarters during the night of 29-30 October preparing the explosive devices in the two trucks with which they attacked the Armed Forces Joint General Staff. They also said that the leaders who handle large sums of money each month are Luis Serrano Lorente, and (Juan Antonio Versico Nunez), who use the aid received for farming aid and legal, educational, and medical programs for the poor as a front to obtain money from different foreign organizations. This money in the end is used to financially support FMLN terrorist groups through CREDHO and (Diacomias).

The two top CREDHO leaders have gone to such extremes as to take out huge loans that they will never repay, while part of these debts are withheld from the salaries of lower ranking employees. Because of this, several CREDHO accounting documents were recently hidden at (Diacomias) to cover evidence of embezzlement by Serrano Lorente and Quinonez. Almost every month Serrano Lorente and Quinonez receive up to 50,000 colones, one-third of which they deliver; they manage the remainder without any accounting controls. In their statements Serrano Lorente and Quinonez contradicted one another in an attempt to cover these facts. In addition to constituting graft and deceit against humanitarian institutions and organizations, especially European organizations, these actions fully support the terrorist plans carried out on Salvadoran soil by international communism, of which the FMLN is a puppet.

Of the detainees, the following individuals have been released and turned over to humanitarian organizations and relatives: Aida Margarita Gomez de Leon, Jose Vidal Enamorado Diaz, Elba Ruth Alfaro, (Jose Francisco Pastoranges), Ana Julia Rodriguez de Quinonez, and Julia Eugenia Aguilera. The detainees whose participation in these actions was proven will be turned over to the 2d penal court in this judicial district. They are Luis Serrano Lorente, (Juan Antonio Versico Nunez), Jose Horacio Guzman Rivas, Jose Eduardo Sanchez Castillo, Luis Gustavo Lopez Magana, Alex Antonio Tovar Flores, Jose Candelario Aguilar Alvarez, and Rodolfo Campos Benavides.

The National Guard is asking worldwide humanitarian organizations, especially European organizations, to demand that these Salvadoran cooperatives—all of which look alike—improve the administration and distribution of the monetary donations they receive from them, because their donations are being used to support FMLN terrorist groups and deepen a war that is harming our people.

FMLN Warns of Action in Escalon and San Benito

PA0112211589 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1924 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Attention all residents and oligarch families living in Escalon and San Benito neighborhoods, we advise you that our operations will continue in the entire national territory, and, of course, Escalon and San Benito cannot be an exception. We are currently disputing power in the major centers of the capital, and our actions in Escalon and San Benito will continue. Our operations will continue in the areas where the oligarch families live, those who have always opposed a negotiated political solution over the years.

The residents of Escalon and San Benito have been watching the bombing of Zacamil from their comfortable balconies, eating turkey and drinking champagne and watching the bombings as if they were a movie show. We warn the oligarch familes from Escalon and San Benito that our operations will continue in the entire national territory. We do not plan to exclude Escalon and San Benito. We will operate in those areas. We, therefore, issue a warning to the oligarch families who have opposed a negotiated political solution to the conflict over the years. We are issuing a warning to the familes who called from their comfortable mansions on 11 and 12 November and blamed the Jesuit priests for the conflict so that they could be assassinated later by their war dogs and by those who hold the leash of the death squads.

We warn you that our operations will continue in Escalon and San Benito. We are disputing power with the oligarchy, and we do not plan to exclude them from the war.

Rebels Report Clashes in San Salvador Outskirts

PA0112161289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1458 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] We are receiving a report from San Salvador. It says that there are clashes against members of the Treasury Police in the Quiros and San Antonio neighborhoods in Soyapango.

The report states that clashes between Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] forces and members of the Treasury Police began in the Quiros and San Antonio neighborhoods in Soyapango at 0300 and ended at 0800. In other words, the clashes lasted until 1 hour ago.

As a result of the clashes, we inflicted four casualties on the Treasury Police. The guerrilla presence continues in northern San Salvador and on the outskirts of San Salvador. Our guerrillas have formed a ring, a strategic siege around the San Salvador Army posts. The Army continues to act in a conservative manner in view of the permanent presence of FMLN forces throughout the San Salvador outskirts and also inside San Salvador, as this report states.

There were clashes in the Quiros and San Antonio neighborhoods in Soyapango between 0300 and 0800 today, during which we inflicted four casualties.

The report adds that clashes continue in the area of Soyapango, while our forces remain in northern San Salvador and its outskirts, thus maintaining the strategic siege around the enemy troops.

Rebels on Damaging 2 Helicopters, Other Action

PA0112235889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0029 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The following is a report from Usulutan: Today, 1 December, clashes with Atonal Battalion soldiers have been reported throughout the day. At 1300 [1900 GMT], in the northwestern sector of Usulutan, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) forces clashed with two Atonal Battalion companies. The FMLN inflicted six casualties and seized a 90-mm cannon, projectiles, and an M-16 rifle. The Atonal Battalion troops were being supported by two O2 lightplanes that fired rockets in the areas of Ojo de Agua and Las Trancas. The enemy fled in disarray.

The report adds that at 1500 our forces shot and hit a helicopter in the eastern sector of Usulutan City. The helicopter was seriously damaged. We are awaiting confirmation as to what happened to the helicopter. A second helicopter was hit at 1725 while flying over the eastern sector of the city. The helicopter was attacked with rifles and RPG-7 rocket launchers. We are awaiting confirming as to whether one helicopter was forced to crash land or whether it actually crashed and the crew killed. We are waiting for confirmation on this.

The helicopter hit at 1725 caught on fire. Our comrades said that they saw it heading for the ground; however, we are waiting for confirmation on the crash or whether it was able to crash land.

FMLN Reports Attack on Zacatecoluca City

PA0212151289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1248 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Attention, there is fighting in Zacatecoluca City. Attention. Guerrilla attacks on enemy positions in Zacatecoluca City began at 0615 this morning. Clashes are taking place inside Zacatecoluca City at this time, one block from the Torre del Centro Building.

We have entered Zacatecoluca City from three different directions, from the north, east, and by the stadium. This is a last-minute report we are receiving here at Radio Venceremos at 0647.

There are clashes in Zacatecoluca City. We are stronger than ever today. The offensive continues to build our victory. We have entered Zacatecoluca City, La Paz Department.

Venceremos Claims Honduran Troops Crossed Border

PA0212200289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1815 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Honduran troops entered Salvadoran territory on 30 November. Thirty Honduran soldiers raided our territory in Roble Negro, Morazan Department. A few hours later, two F-5 Honduran planes overflew the towns of Perquin and San Fernando for 15 minutes, in a clear threat to the communities where refugees have settled.

Rebel Radio Says Soldiers Raid City Cooperatives

PA0412012789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0013 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Expansions for all acronyms unknown]

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas is destroying the offices of cooperatives in San Miguel City. Using explosives, the soldiers from the 3d Infantry Brigade destroyed the offices of FECOROA, PADECON, and the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission. The soldiers also raided and looted the ASPS offices. Col Vargas is responsible for these terrorist actions against the cooperatives and people's organizations.

Forty-Seven Foreign 'Mercenaries' Arrested

PA0112212789 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 1937 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The Immigration Directorate has announced that it has in its custody 47 FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] mercenaries captured by the Army.

Among the detainees are FMLN fighters, activists, and mercenary leaders who hail from Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Japan, France, Switzerland, Spain, Canada, Colombia, The Netherlands, United States, Germany, and Italy.

If the paraffin test they were all given turns out positive, they will be sent to regular courts. In cases where involvement cannot be fully proven, detainees will be placed in the custody of their respective countries' consulates so that they can be repatriated, the source said.

The source said that this en masse arrest of foreigners once again proves foreign involvement in the country's internal affairs, which is intolerable. Therefore, drastic action will be taken against these individuals.

FMLN Reportedly Kidnaps Civilians, Reporters

PA0212033789 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0232 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The National Information Center [CIN] reports to the Salvadoran people and the international community that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has kidnapped five reporters. We repeat. CIN hereby reports to the Salvadoran people and the international community that five reporters have been kidnapped by the FMLN. The reporters were kidnapped with other civilians this week during an attack on homes in the capital's nortwest. These are the names of the reporters: Elivardo Quizada Lopez, Alfredo Melgar, Anibal Dubon, Jose Ceballos, and Oscar Herrera.

According to the information, the men were free-lance reporters working for several international news organizations and who in the past have been linked to leading world television networks. The whereabouts of the reporters and the other civilians, all of whom were kidnapped by the FMLN, is unknown.

Terrorists reportedly destroyed or set fire to several Escalon neighborhood homes, including a privately owned television studio, where FMLN members torched office machines and production equipment. The losses have been estimated at several hundred thousand U.S. dollars.

Reporting these events, CIN hereby expresses solidarity with the relatives of the kidnapped reporters, and invites humanitarian organizations and the governments of the world to think about what they can do, so the reporters and other kidnapped civilians can be released.

Guatemala

Government Spokesman on Venue of 10-11 Dec Summit

PA0212195889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1747 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Central American presidents will hold a special "summit" on 10-11 December in either Guatemala or Costa Rica, instead of Managua as had been planned. The summit will analyze the grave crisis the region has been experiencing since mid-November.

This was reported today by Guatemalan Government spokesperson Claudia Arenas after stating that "there is consensus among the presidents of the region about holding the summit on the aforementioned dates, and the only remaining decision is the site."

She stated that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has notified Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo that he accepts Guatemala as site of the summit. She added that Honduran President Jose Azcona has likewise accepted this site.

"In the next few days Cerezo will get in touch with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to finally decide whether the special summit will be held in Guatemala," Arenas stressed.

Arenas added that Cerezo will also speak with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who initially has refused to change the site of the summit that was decided on by the presidents in their last meeting in Tela, Honduras.

"Because of the problems that have emerged with El Salvador, it would be impossible to hold it in Managua," Arenas said.

On 26 November Cristiani announced the suspension of relations with Nicaragua after the crash in Salvadoran territory of a plane which, according to him, was bringing weapons from Managua for the Salvadoran guerrillas. In addition to the plane incident, there was a harsh verbal exchange between Daniel Ortega and Jose Azcona over the contras in Honduran territory and over the contra attacks on the Sandinist Army.

Amid this situation, Cerezo asked Arias on 28 November to cosponsor a special summit in Guatemala, an initiative that, according to Claudia Arenas, was backed by the Costa Rican president and later by the Salvadoran president.

Arenas added that Cerezo also asked for the cooperation of the Group of Rio (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, and Brazil) and of the UN and OAS secretaries general and the international community.

Guatemalan Acting Foreign Minister Julio Rodas Martini said yesterday that he is waiting for instructions from Cerezo to make the preparations for the presidential summit in Guatemala.

According to Rodas Martini, Cristiani confirmed his participation in the meeting proposed by Cerezo "and we now only need to confirm the acceptance of Arias, Azcona, and Ortega."

Visiting USSR Official Meets Foreign Minister

PA0212051689 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] The USSR is worried about the worsening of the situation in Central America, and for this reason it has sent an envoy to try to decrease and normalize tension in the area.

For this reason Yan Burlyay, deputy chief First Latin American Department, is touring Central America in an attempt to meet with the foreign ministers of the region.

In accordance with diplomatic norms, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera met on Tuesday with the Soviet official to exchange views. Burlyay had previously met with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and the acting foreign minister. He has also met with Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras.

Ambassador Burlyay told Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera that his tour is designed to explain the Kremlin's position with regard to what is happening in Central America. He said that his country is concerned about the worsening situation.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Rivera Arias reiterated the Guatemalan Government's position concerning the Central American problem. He reiterated that the position is in accord with Guatemala's policy of active neutrality. He added that Guatemala is actively participating in the promotion of the peace process as established in the Esquipulas, Costa del Sol, and Tela agreements.

Honduras

Spokesman Says CIA, AID Intervened in Voting

PA0212192689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1847 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Marco Tulio Romero, official spokesman of the Honduran Presidency, today accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of having intervened in the electoral process that culminated with the defeat of the Liberal Party of Honduras, which has been in power since 1982.

Romero said the CIA, along with the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), "directly intervened in the Honduran electoral process."

The spokesman did not provide details of the alleged role of the CIA and AID, but said that "U.S. technicians manipulated [manipularon] the electoral process and participated in activities that were strictly the concern of the Hondurans."

In this regard, Marc Jacobs, the press chief of the U.S. Embassy, only said that "Romero's comment is not worthy of a reply."

The United States provided approximately $9 million to hold the 26 November general elections in which opposition National Party candidate Rafael Leonardo Callejas won.

Soviet Solidarity Committee Meets Azcona

PA0212223389 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p 4

[Text] Members of the Soviet Committee of Solidarity with Latin America on 30 November met with President Jose Azcona during a courtesy visit paid to the president.

The Soviet delegation consists of Karen Jachaturov [deputy chairman of Novosti Press Agency] who heads the delegation; Igor Ribalkin; Mikhail Orlov; and Orthodox Church Archbishop Platon. The Soviet delegation has explained in Tegucigalpa the importance of the concepts of "perestroyka" and "glasnost." In other words, the restructuring and openness of a new revolution in the Soviet Union.

After meeting the president, Karen Jachaturov said the delegation had not come to give lessons on perestroyka. However, during the meeting they had an opportunity to answer some of President Azcona's questions concerning its development, difficulties, and results, he added.

Jachaturov said perestroyka is the basis for solving Central American problems. However, that decision should be made by the Central American countries.

He added that the Honduran President is assessing the perestroyka process, and that the delegation has found Honduras a beautiful and wonderful country with beautiful women and very curious newsmen.

Honduran Press Secretariat Lizandro Quesada said the Soviet delegation is very democratic because it includes members of private organizations, the Orthodox Church, and the secretary general of the Soviet Communist Party.

"Their pluralism is obvious, and that gives credibility," Quesada said. He added that the Soviets would like to see a lessening of tension in Central America, and have hopes the peace process will conclude successfully because the peace agreements are feasible.

The Soviet delegation considers it difficult to believe the demobilization of the contras from Honduran territory will take place on 5 December, as established in the peace agreements.

Nicaragua

Ortega on Deadline for Disbanding Contras

PA0112235489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2302 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said today in Managua that the deadline for demobilizing the contras from Honduras, 4 days away, "has definitely not been met nor will it be met."

On 7 August, the five Central American presidents agreed in Tela, Honduras, to demobilize or relocate the contras in Nicaragua or a third country prior to 5 December.

Speaking before a teachers' meeting, the Nicaraguan president said that the government has made efforts to comply with the peace agreement of the region, but the United States never worried about this nor did it "exert pressure" on the rebels so that they would accept dismantling, he pointed out.

He explained that Nicaragua proposed to the contras a "flexible " offer during peace negotiations in New York and Washington, but the United States adopted a "stubborn stand," and this led to "failure" in the conversations.

Invited by Ortega, Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo was a witness at talks that concluded on 21 November.

The conversations were convened by the Sandinist regime to agree on the demobilization of the rebels and order a cease-fire, following Ortega's decision to lift the unilateral truce with the contras that he had maintained for the past 19 months.

According to Ortega, the truce was lifted to call world attention to the fact that in Nicaragua, although there was a cease-fire, there was ongoing war in the Nicaraguan mountains.

Ortega on Regional Summit, U.S. Policy

PA0212143889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] On 1 December, President Daniel Ortega reaffirmed Nicaragua's desire to attain peace when he announced that he had accepted the convening of a special meeting of Central American presidents to rescue the agreements signed in Tela, Honduras. Ortega said he had talked over the telephone with the Guatemalan, Costa Rican, Venezuelan, Argentine, and Mexican presidents, and added that the summit has been scheduled for San Jose, Costa Rica on 10 and 11 December.

President Ortega noted that the first topic to be covered at the special meeting will be the demobilization of the contras, who are in Honduras. He said that there has been no demobilization because of the policy of the United States, which yesterday authorized the contras an additional $30 million. Also to be discussed in Costa Rica are ways to attain a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran conflict. The president said the uncompromising U.S. policy on Central America has to be dismantled. He added that the UN and OAS secretaries general and the Argentine, Venezuelan, and Mexican foreign ministers will be invited to the meeting.

[Begin Ortega recording] I can announce tonight that I am willing to go to Costa Rica to attend the meeting on 10-11 December, as was tentatively scheduled today. However, the Honduran and Salvadoran presidents still have to be consulted on all of this. [end recording]

Daniel Ortega explained that the main summit scheduled to be held in Nicaragua has not been cancelled. The Costa Rican meeting is a special one as there is a need to find a solution to the present regional crisis. The president recalled that the United States was the first to introduce surface-to-air missiles into the region. He also defended the right of the Salvadoran rebels to protect the civilian population from the Cristiani administration's bombings.

[Begin Ortega recording] We must not forget that it was the Yankees who set the precedent of giving weapons to irregular forces in Central America and who introduced surface-to-air missiles into the region. They did so when they gave weapons and all their well-known financing to the Somozist mercenary forces of the counterrevolution. Therefore, the Salvadoran people and revolutionaries have all the more right to attain these means to defend people who are being indiscriminately and criminally bombed by the Salvadoran Air Force. [end recording]

Ortega Criticizes UNO Links With Contras

PA0112141689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega said yesterday at a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the founding of Ciudad Sandino that the repressive past of the Somozist guards will never return.

Speaking before approximately 20,000 people, Ortega said that the Yankees, contras, guards, Somozists, and the UNO [National Opposition Union] are all the same.

In his speech, President Ortega recalled the combativeness shown by the people of Ciudad Sandino in the struggle against the Somozist tyranny.

[Begin Ortega recording] We must tell the people: Look, these elections are really elections between Nicaragua and the Yankees. The UNO, contras, and Somozists are instruments of the Yankees! The contras are made up of Somozist guards, while the contras and Somozists are part of the UNO. The UNO is a mixture that only the Yankees could swallow, because the Nicaraguan people are not swallowing it. No Nicaraguan peasant would fall into the same stupidity that Bush has fallen into, which is like putting a chicken, a cat, a dog, and a pig in the same bag. No Nicaraguan peasant would do that! However, that is what the Yankees have done with the UNO. They have put a chicken, a dog, and a pig in the same bag! [applause]

Who are in the UNO? Some who call themselves liberals, others who call themselves communists, conservatives, or Somozists. It is a strange mixture. Somozists, communists, liberals, conservatives. What a mixture the UNO is!

So, who can swallow the UNO? Will the people of Ciudad Sandino swallow it? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Bush can swallow it! We give Bush the whole UNO, so that he can swallow it all, but the Nicaraguan people will not! [end recording]

Further Comments

PA0212204289 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 2 Dec 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] During a meeting with approximately 2,000 Nicaraguan teachers gathered at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega yesterday reconfirmed that his government will not issue visas to members of the mission of "U.S. election observers that Bush intends to send to Nicaragua without previously consulting with the Nicaraguan authorities."

After stating that the gringo congress recently approved $30 million in aid for the Somozist mercenaries, Ortega said that we cannot let those who finance the people who attack us and kill us come into our country.

Ortega stated: "We already told them that there is no visa and that they would have to respect Nicaragua first, then come as observers." Ortega added that we would be fools if we let people who want to destabilize our country, and who have repeatedly denied visas to our government officials, come into our country.

President Ortega recalled that it was the U.S. Administration that first introduced surface-to-air missiles into Central America when a it gave missiles to the counterrevolutionaries a few years ago. The counterrevolutionaries used the missiles to attack a legitimately elected government. Now, the U.S. Administration is making a big fuss because such missiles have reached the Salvadoran rebels.

After explaining that in Nicaragua there are no political groups with local roots, because the 14 opposition parties of the rightist coalition are all subordinated to the Yankee policy, Ortega said: "UNO [National Opposition Union] is an instrument of aggression and intervention against the democratic plan defended by the Nicaraguan people and the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front].

Daniel talked with the teachers for a long time, and among other things he told them that the Latin American and the nonaligned countries should start a campaign to demand that the Yankees act as the Soviets are acting with nations under its influence and let Third World countries do what they believe is suitable without threats of intervention.

Upon a general request, Nicaraguan Education Minister Fernando Cardenal decorated the FSLN candidate with the Teacher of the People medal because of his dedication. Meanwhile, Aminta Pineda, principal of the Alesio Blanco Teachers' School, moved that Daniel Ortega be given the title of Teacher of Peace, Dignity, Respect, and Sovereignty of all Nicaraguans.

Ortega met with the teacher leaders to revise the agreements reached in May and June. The meeting concluded that most of the points of the agreements have been fulfilled and that those that are still pending will be revised. In addition, new points were agreed upon during the meeting at the Olof Palme Convention Center.

Ministry Reaction to New U.S. Contra Aid

PA0212163689 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] The $30 million approved on 30 November by the U.S. Government to continue providing logistical support for the contras will be used by the contras to continue assassinating Nicaraguans and hampering the electoral process.

This is how Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann—who issued a written declaration that constitutes the first official reaction by the Sandinist Government—referred to the U.S. Government decision.

D'Escoto rejected the resumption of aid to the contras, announcing that Nicaragua will not grant observers' credentials or entrance visas to any members of the U.S. Government who attempt to supervise the electoral process.

"In view of these circumstances, Nicaragua cannot permit any U.S. presidential commission to come to Nicaragua to stage the farce of being innocent and unbiased electoral observers."

The foreign minister added: "From the point of view of its credibility, the fact that Mr Bush himself appoints that commission suffices to totally discredit it." D'Escoto believes that the resumption of financial aid to the contras—which will be used to buy uniforms, boots, tents, mosquito nets, radios, and food—tramples on the agreements signed by the Central American presidents.

"Instead of disbanding the contras—as established in the Tela agreements and as demanded by the International Court of Justice—the U.S. Congress has authorized their reorganization," D'Escoto added.

D'Escoto recalled that in October the U.S. Congress approved a $9 million package for the electoral campaign of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

He also pointed out that in October 1988 the United States approved $2 million, and in June $1.5 million, to help the political parties that nominated Mrs Barrios as their candidate. Therefore, D'Escoto said, "there is a clear incompatibility between attempting to buy people to have a specific candidate elected, and at the same time trying to be accepted as unbiased observers at our elections."

The foreign minister added: "We cannot and will not permit President Bush and the U.S. Congress to appear as they really are... [sentence as published] No one in the world will make the Nicaraguan people believe Bush or any commission appointed by him is unbiased."

After disqualifying the commission as possible observers, D'Escoto pointed out the role that prestigious organizations such as the United Nations and the OAS, and personalities like Elliot Richardson and Jimmy Carter, are authorized to play.

"The Nicaraguan electoral process has been the most strictly observed electoral process ever in a sovereign state, and this is no coincidence. It is the result of a political decision," D'Escoto added.

D'Escoto said the international community has confidence in the judgment that international observers—authorized by the Nicaraguan Government—will make.

Cease-Fire in El Salvador Sought at UN

PA0112213289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1747 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, 1 Dec (EFE)—Nicaragua, which was accused by El Salvador at the Security Council on 30 November of worsening the tension in Central America, has asked the Security Council to issue a call for an "immediate" cease-fire and for the resumption of negotiations between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas.

Alejandro Serrano Caldera, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, also requested that the council ask UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar "to undertake special efforts to achieve and supervise" a cease-fire in El Salvador.

Without considering the draft resolution presented by Nicaragua and released today, the Security Council last night suspended its meeting, which had been requested by El Salvador to report Nicaraguan shipments of weapons, including surface-to-air missiles, to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

In the draft resolution, Nicaragua asked the council to "vigorously" condemn the assassination of six Jesuit priests "by a group wearing uniforms" as well as "other indiscriminate acts of violence, especially bombings" by the Salvadoran Armed Forces during the offensive begun by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] on 11 November.

It also urged the council to work for an immediate cease-fire in El Salvador and for the resumption of negotiations between the government and the FMLN as "the only way to solve" the Salvadoran crisis and as an "unpostponable step" to consolidate the regional peace process.

The draft resolution reiterated the council's support for the Central American peace agreements and, in clear reference to the United States, it urged the countries with links or interests in the region not to intervene in the Salvadoran conflict.

According to Nicaragua, the Security Council should also express its satisfaction with the forthcoming deployment of the UN Observer Group in Central America [ONUCA].

The first group from ONUCA is scheduled to arrive on Sunday in Tegucigalpa, where its headquarters will be located.

Region Chief Expects Increase in Contra Actions

PA0412001389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2257 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 3 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Some 453 Nicaraguans, 441 "contras" and 11 Sandinist military personnel, have been killed so far this year in 780 clashes in the central part of Nicaragua.

Colonel Roberto Calderon, commander of the 5th Military Region, reported today that this figure does not include civilians who were killed during fighting between regular troops and the anti-Sandinist rebels. This figure also accounts only for the 5th region, which covers the Departments of Boaco and Chontales in the central part of the country and part of the South Atlantic Coast, Calderon added.

The 5th Military Region has been one of the scenes of the most important fighting in Nicaragua this year.

During the first 11 months of this year, a total of 344 "contras" were captured, while 470 lay down their weapons and joined the amnesty offered by the government to those who quit the armed struggle.

Calderon offered this information during a ceremony in which 369 Sandinist People's Army officers were promoted in Juigalpa, 100 km northeast of Managua.

The military chief said it is expected that fighting will increase in the country in the coming days as a result of the $30 million in aid approved last week by the U.S. Government for the "contras" to buy boots, uniforms, and medicine.

According to Calderon, the "contra" attacks will include ambushes, actions against civilian and military targets and cooperatives, and the sabotage of the country's infrastructure.

LA PRENSA Reports on Aborted Air Mission

PA0212033289 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] LA PRENSA newspaper today reported that the Sandinists did send a plane to El Salvador. The aircraft is a Cessna 310. The identity of the crewmen in the Nicaraguan planes that crashed in El Salvador over the past weekend carrying Soviet arms is a state secret reported LA PRENSA this morning after getting in touch with a high-ranking source in the Sandinist Army. The source disclosed further details of the Butterfly [Mariposa] operation. The Army source, which of course requested to remain anonymous, confirmed that the plane that crashed in San Miguel belongs to Nicaragua and that the plane's registration is Yankee November Bravo Yankee Kilo.

There are no reports so far as to whether any relatives have claimed the bodies of the four military men who were reportedly killed when the plane crashed. Three of the crewmen were killed instantly, while the fourth committed suicide. A picture of a young Cuban girl, dated in July, is the only published clue as to the identity of the men, whether Nicaraguans, Cubans, or Salvadorans, commissioned for this clandestine mission directed from Nicaragua. Our source said that young Salvadoran guerrillas were trained at the national civilian flight school over the past few months. The training was supervised by Captain Robin Romero, the flight school's director. The training was also conducted at Punta Huete and Los Brasiles. Most of the flights were made at night. The student pilots used oil lamps as landing lights. The source said the training flights were conducted in light single-engine planes from Sandino Airport to Punta Huete or Los Brasiles.

The head of this operation was Commander Christian Pichardo. Two Salvadoran guerrilla commanders, whose identities are unknown, also participated in the operation. The Cessna 310 had been leased by the National Development Bank [BND], which in turn had acquired the plane from the Zeta National Charter Service, an Aeronica subsidiary. BND administrative director Marcos Blandon Gravy leased the plane, one of several aircraft intended to be sent to El Salvador. Another single-engine Cessna, with registration Charlie Bravo Papa, and an Aero Commander, were added to the inventory. According to our source, the Aero Commander was confiscated from Colombian drug traffickers in Puerto Cabezas a year ago when they were intercepted by Sandinist Air Force [FAS] planes. The planes involved in the operation, however, remained unequipped to fly to El Salvador until further notice.

According to our source, the Aero Commander 500 was owned by Guevara, a colonel in charge of the San Carlos special zone. The turbo-charged Cessna 310 was regularly flown by Edgar Salazar. According to the high-ranking officer who gave this information to LA PRENSA, the two planes were parked at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, from where they were flown on 12 November. The officer said the pilot assigned to the Butterfly mission was a Nicaraguan. There are, however, contradicting versions of his name, some of which were checked by LA PRENSA. The men with such names were seen alive in Nicaragua after 25 November. The officer also said the men assigned to this mission were 1st Lieutenants Erasmo Guerrero and Andres Fratelli de Mondi, who would be accompanied by two Salvadoran crewmen. The men aboard the plane that landed and which could not take off later are alive. Presumably they have returned to Managua already. The nationalities of the crewmen were still being reported by El Salvador, the OAS, and the Security Council. The Sandinist government produced proof of presumed human rights violations in El Salvador.

The already-equipped aircraft was flown to Nostrasires, where the pilot received a short, intensive course on night flying and how to fly low so that radar could not detect them. The original identification was erased from the Cessna 310. A man called Rugama, director of EDSA, a line of crop dusting planes operating out of Norbrasire, lent a compressor, paint, and other materials to change the plane's appearance. Frank de Montis, formerly a member of the executive squadron of the Sandinist Air Force who was decorated with a gold medal by Daniel Ortega, who trusted him completely, participated in the operation. Before taking off for El Salvador, training night flights were made from Los Brasiles to the Atlantic coast because the crew was to become familiar with flying the Cessna in marginal conditions.

A Sandinist Air Force mechanic, Raul Saldana, alias Camaron, was charged with equipping the Cessna and adjusting it for the mission. On 24 November, the Cessna and the Aero Commander were flown to Montelimar, where last minute instructions were given. The flight took place that night, with the results we all know. The state security agencies, upon learning of the Butterfly plan's failure, have instructed pilots and mechanics in the hangars of the Sandino and Los Brasiles airports to keep their mouths shut. The source finally said the Sandinist commanders, mainly General

Humberto Ortega, directed the mission at all times, working on the plan and its completion.

Chamorro Sends Letter to Mikhail Gorbachev

PA0212045589 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Nov 89 pp 1, 12

["Text" of letter from Violeta Chamorro to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev; dated 27 November]

[Text] I agreed to run as the presidential candidate for the National Opposition Unity 2 and ½ months ago. I assumed this responsibility at a time when our country confronts the worst crisis in its history. Fifty years of military dictatorships and a totalitarian regime have led us to the verge of economic and social collapse. We know the only solution is democracy, which in turn will lead us to a lasting peace and steady economic development.

I am convinced that this solution is possible provided the Sandinists make good on their word to allow pure and just elections to be held in February and in good faith negotiate with the rebels the latter's return to civilian life. Daniel Ortega's decision to break the cease-fire, however, has seriously endangered the peace process and the possibility of free elections.

I am familiar with, admire, and respect what you have done for your people. I congratulate you for the changes effected in the Soviet Union under your leadership and the changes triggered in Hungary, Poland, and the GDR. This is why I am today asking you to apply your full political and moral authority to make sure the election process that the Nicaraguan people so much desire can be completed. Over the past 2 weeks, I requested similar support from European leaders and U.S. President Bush. All of them have assured me that they will do their best in favor of this just and noble cause.

When UNO wins the elections—and I am sure it will—we will require the Soviet Union's solidarity and support, as well as that of all the democratic friends and countries of the world. I am asking for this support because I am aware that the Soviet Union must participate in our economic recovery and co-guarantee the national reconciliation, that will be the sound basis for our future democracy.

I want to tell you and the Soviet people that my government will work tirelessly to promote peace throughout Central America. Arms is what we least need in Nicaragua. I pray that you support us firmly in our call so that all countries immediately suspend all arms shipments to Nicaragua.

May God protect you and bless the Soviet Union.

Yours truly,

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro

UNO Political Council Backs Godoy Candidacy

PA0112222889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2000 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Acting ahead of Alfredo Cesar's attempt to take political control of UNO [National Opposition Unity], the organization's political council confirmed the council's support for Virgilio Godoy, who has been stripped of membership in UNO's political council, to continue as the UNO vice presidential candidate for the coming elections.

In the close struggle between UNO's political council and the former contra leader, Cesar, taking advantage of the fact that Godoy was stripped of his political council membership, maneuvered to force Godoy to relinquish his vice presidential candidacy for UNO without Cesar himself falling.

Nevertheless, Eli Altamirano, the self-styled communist who is allegedly responsible for Godoy losing his post at the council, in the presence of numerous local and foreign reporters, read a communique reaffirming Godoy's vice presidential candidacy, thus dashing Cesar's ambition to become Dona Violeta's running mate. Perhaps grieving his failure to become the vice presidential candidate, Cesar failed to attend the news conference where the UNO political council's communique was read. This is part of the communique.

[Begin Altamirano recording] I will now read (?a communique) released by the National Political Council on the matter. It reads: To the Nicaraguan people, Central American governments, and all the democratic people and forces of the world. Yesterday, 30 November 1989, in a wholly illegal action permeated with wicked political intentions, the Nicaraguan National Assembly, with the approval of the Sandinist faction and its (?treacherous) allies, scandalously decided to strip Godoy of his privileges as a political council member. Godoy is UNO's distinguished vice presidential candidate. UNO deeply regrets that Juan Manuel Gutierrez, a leader and an old hand in the Independent Liberal Party [PLI] and a man with an extensive political career, has turned his back on his leader, thus blotting out by his own hand what was shaped with so much effort and considered worthy and honorable. Also this happened at a time when the homeland's need was greatest, at the most crucial and decisive moment in the long and arduous process of struggle for peace and democracy. The UNO political council, with firm political determination, hereby reiterates to the Nicaraguan people, the people of the world, the presidents and states of Central America, and all international institutions and forces, its unconditional solidarity and support for Godoy as its vice presidential candidate. [end recording]

Local Media on Godoy's Loss of Immunity

PA0112221189

[Editorial Report] There has been reaction in Nicaraguan media concerning the National Assembly stripping Virgilio Godoy, deputy and vice-presidential candidate, of his parliamentary immunity. Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish at 0200 GMT on 1 December reports on the National Assembly's action toward Deputy Godoy. Godoy, who is vice presidential candidate for the National Opposition Unity (UNO) has been accused of embezzling funds.

Deputy Joaquin Mejia said: "He is hiding behind UNO to avoid reporting what he should to his fellow Liberal Party members." Deputy Rafael Solis, Secretary General of the National Assembly, said: "Nothing in the world could have been easier than for him to openly discuss this problem. A vice presidential candidate should discuss these matters openly, especially if he expects to assume a post of responsibility in a hypothetical UNO victory."

Meanwhile Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish at 1130 GMT on 1 December carries a report by newsman Joaquin Absalon Pastora, who says: "As soon as the impartial Sandinist Assembly stripped Virgilio Godoy of his immunity, there was an immediate reaction by the Nicaraguan Liberal sector."

The three different liberal parties say that on 12 December, they will issue a declaration unconditionally supporting Virgilio Godoy.

The Liberals, united on this issue regardless of party divisions, say that the submissive assembly had received orders from the FSLN (Sandinists National Liberation Front) leadership to take revenge on Godoy. The Liberals say that the FSLN considers Godoy a fierce enemy, which is why they want to destroy him.

Elsewhere, Virgilio Godoy made statements to reporter Adolfo Pastran. Godoy said: "UNO represents national unity. UNO is comprised of sectors from communists to conservatives, going through Liberals, Social Christians, Social Democrats, and so on." He said labor organizations, as well as managerial groups support UNO.

Godoy said: "The Sandinist have launched military operations to create uncertainty and insecurity, and to continue with their repression. We know this, but we do not care. We are going to go ahead. We are going to continue to seek the possibility of having a different Nicaragua beginning in February 1990."

Radio Catolica in this same cast also reports that the CPT (Permanent Workers Congress) has issued a communique supporting Virgilio Godoy. The communique says that the military-political party in power has stripped Godoy of his immunity.

It expresses its rejection of this electoral maneuver by the FSLN, which merely wants to discredit the UNO ticket in an attempt to detract votes from it.

UNO Calls Maneuvers Against Godoy Illegal

PA0312164089 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] The National Opposition Unity [UNO] has described the decision to strip Virgilio Godoy Reyes of parliamentarian immunity as a "fully illegal act of wicked political intentions." Godoy Reyes "is our dear and distinguished vice presidential candidate for UNO," according to an official communique released by this political alliance of 14 parties that oppose the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

This action reveals the inability of the government and the ruling party to hold clean elections and beat UNO in the field of ideological discussions. In other words, we are in the presence of a government and a party that is unable to govern with truth, reason, and the people's free and conscientious election, a people who wish and seek democracy, peace, and the patriotic reconstruction of the country, said the opposition political leaders.

UNO harshly criticized the liberal politicians who have stripped Godoy of his immunity. UNO also criticizes those politicians who, although they do not belong to Sandinist factions, voted for the action.

"It is inconceivable and unacceptable for men who regard themselves as the opposition to seek the government's favor and designate the FSLN as the judge in settling their party objections," UNO said.

In addition, UNO decried that Dr Juan Manuel Gutierrez "has discarded what he forged with his own hands, work and sacrifice. We can only regret that the prestige this leader had acquired with so much effort has ended up in the gutter of the opportunists and traitors of all kinds," the UNO political council said.

Despite Godoy's stripping, UNO said it will continue to support its ticket. "UNO hereby declares that it will support Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Dr Virgilio Godoy Reyes on the presidential ticket, convinced that they are the presidential candidates with whom the Nicaraguan people will triumph on 25 February," the communique said.

UNO's support of Godoy is "unconditional." The organization has demanded from the FSLN government a radical change of stance and that good intent, the people's rights, and their sacred respect prevail during the elections, they concluded. The National Executive Council of the Independent Liberal Party (PLI), to which Godoy belongs and which he presides, protested and rejected "the infamous actions of the Sandinist majority of National Assembly's Special Commission. The Executive Council advises the people in general that those who lend themselves to such censurable actions are responsible accomplices of the FSLN, which is trying to harm the political prestige of the Nicaraguan opposition's true leaders, particularly UNO's presidential ticket, the communique concluded.

Paper Says Godoy Admits Working With Contras

PA0312191089 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Dec 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] The impudent Virgilio Godoy categorically confirmed on 1 December that the ultra right-wing UNO [National Opposition Union] alliance and the contras are one and the same, adding that "we are working with the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] on a plan to change things." As authentic proof he mentioned the inclusion of the top contra leaders in the coalition's political council.

What up until now they had denied and pointed to as "unfounded attacks by the government party," was confirmed by Godoy himself when he admitted that "somehow or other, the profile that the government has tried to create by saying that the UNO and the RN are one and the same is true because we are, in fact, working together on this electoral plan to change things."

During the inauguration of the UNO's campaign headquarters, which took place in a small room at the facility in the presence of members of the directorates of the parties that comprise the alliance, several international observers, and janitors, many insults against the government and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], which they promised to defeat "now or never, were hurled."

Campaign director Jorge Lacayo admitted that the "cadres" that manage UNO came from abroad. "There was no one here to boost this alliance," he said, pointing to this as one of the group's leading achievements. However, he also complained about "the late arrival of the funds approved by the U.S. Congress," which—he said—will not be for the campaign itself but for "the leaders' basic needs."

"We will not change, we will continue to be the same because we have decided to convince the FSLN to accept its electoral defeat," Lacayo said, while the "communist" Eli Altamirano described the headquarters as "the battle house, the war house." But despite his efforts to make a good showing, not even his own supporters applauded his statements.

Also speaking at the event were Agustin Jarquin and Violeta Barrios, who devoted their time to entertaining their guests. Opening her speech by loudly clearing her throat, the U.S. candidate went to the podium and after thanking those present, asked them to excuse her "for not talking much because I am hoarse." Those who preceded me said everything, she added, but she wanted to say something about a telephone call she received in the morning which, in the end, we did not hear about because she went on to discuss something else.

Gustavo Tablada, one of her leading aides, explained that "she does that to leave reporters in suspense."

Present at the event was Msgr Bismark Carballo as the personal delegate of Cardinal Obando. When Carballo blessed the headquarters he described it as "the hall that will be visited by all who believe in the Lord," and as "the starting point for the preparation of plans that will contribute to a better future for the fatherland."

Pastora Returns, Offers 'Nonaligned' Alternative

PA0312215889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2007 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 3 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Former Nicaraguan guerrilla Eden Pastora, who returned today to Nicaragua after 8 years in exile, lashed out against both the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the 14-party coalition National Opposition Union (UNO) in his first speech, given in Managua.

Pastora, known as "Commander Zero" after directing the storming of the National Palace in 1978, will participate in this country's 25 February elections by throwing his support behind the Social Christian Party (PSC) headed by Erick Ramirez.

The FSLN "sold out the revolution" for 300 tanks, 200 cannons, and 200,000 rifles from the USSR, whereas the UNO leaders did it for "dollars," the former guerrilla said in a speech given on the steps of Managua's National Palace.

Pastora arrived at the Managua airport at 0900, where he was cheered by 500 followers on hand to welcome him.

Accompanied by the PSC leadership and a motorcade, Pastora headed for the monument built in honor of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, murdered on 10 January 1978, in the old center of the Nicaraguan capital. Two thousand persons gathered there to greet him, and he promised in his brief speech that if the PSC wins power the first law it would repeal would be the national military service. He also said amnesty would be granted to all political prisoners.

From Chamorro's monument, and always in the company of his followers, Pastora walked toward the National Palace in the Plaza of the Revolution, which he renamed "the Plaza of the Republic."

Using the platform that is being built for a speech Daniel Ortega will give tomorrow at that same site, Pastora climbed up to the dais and gave his vibrant speech.

"I come as I left—with neither a ruble nor a dollar in my knapsack—to speak the truths that have been hidden these past 10 years," Pastora said.

According to the anti-Sandinist guerrilla, the only thing the Sandinists have done these past 10 years is to hang on to power, but they have not made a revolution. "I return as a soldier of (guerrilla general Augusto Cesar) Sandino, to continue his struggle and offer the people a government that represents a third way: nonpolarized, nationalist, anti-imperialist, and truly nonaligned," Pastora added.

"I know it is difficult," Pastora noted, "to talk to you about a third political way when you are going hungry because of the economic disaster and the war."

Pastora expressed his great admiration for UNO presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro, who he feels does not represent that opposition bloc, and hinted she is being used. He attacked Alfredo Cesar, former "contra" chief and Chamorro's personal adviser, for having accepted U.S. dollars "that had been previously taken out of the gold extracted from Nicaragua's mines, out of the shrimp and lobster of its seas, and out of its forests." He urged "the honest people of Nicaragua" not to sell out to the USSR or the United States and to make a true revolution.

Pastora will host his first news conference tomorrow in Managua after his 8-year exile in Costa Rica.

GDR Donates $4 Million for Rama Reconstruction

PA0212223189 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 12 Nov 89 p 8

[Text] Deputy Construction Minister Mario Flores, who escorted an important GDR delegation that has visited Nicaragua, reported that GDR has contributed approximately $4 million toward the reconstruction of Ciudad Rama.

The delegation is headed by Dietrich Aldrich, vice president of the GDR Planning Commission. Flores met with Aldrich to study the construction program for 400 housing units in Ciudad Rama donated by the GDR government and people.

During the meeting, the officials noted that the program for reconstruction of the city that was destroyed by Hurricane Joan is advancing as scheduled thus far. The program is presently in its design and urbanization phase.

The 400 housing units will help solve the serious problem caused by Hurricane Joan in the latter part of October 1988. Mr Aldrich stated that his country is completely willing to continue cooperating with the Nicaraguan people.

It was reported that the General Housing Directorate will be formed. This organization will ensure that government housing policies are implemented.

The General Housing Directorate will be an internal dependency of the Construction and Transportation Ministry. It is to be headed by Deputy Minister Mario Flores who has also reported that funds have been assigned to the General Housing Directorate.

Officials also discussed the GDR Government's programmed 1990 credit lines for housing and transportation. GDR and ministry officials went over the request by the Construction and Transportation Ministry for a $8.2 million credit line to purchase 375 units of IFA Robur and W-50 [not further identified]. It was reported that an additional $700,000 is needed to obtain material for vertical and horizontal construction.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Norway

PA0112132789 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 29 Nov 89 p 6

[Text] The Governments of Nicaragua and Norway signed an important bilateral cooperation agreement yesterday for the 1990-92 period, worth 255 million Norwegian kroner or $39 million.

It must be stressed, however, that the Norwegians increased their cooperation for the upcoming years from 81.5 million kroner a year to 85 million kroner, which is $13 million.

The cooperation is broken down as follows: supply of fertilizers, equipment for packing and distribution plants, technical assistance, and scholarships for land and cattle sectors.

Fishing: support to industrial and local fishing by supplying equipment and implements, rebuilding of the industrial plant that was seriously damaged by hurricane Joan, and a program for the rational handling of shellfish resources.

It should be recalled that in May 1989 Norway reacted positively to the call made by Nicaragua during the First International Donors Conference, when it approved 30 million kroner to be used to obtain raw materials and spare parts for the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Other Norwegian aid has been: $500 million for the electoral process and $12.6 million in multilateral programs for development by UN organizations.

There are also nongovernment organization-financed projects for 53.5 million kroner, such as Norwegian volunteer services, humanitarian aid, and projects for women, culture, research, and the environment.

The agreement was signed by Commander Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation, and Mr. Bjom Johannensen, assistant general director for Norwegian international development aid.

Panama

Summons Issued Against Gens Thurman, Cisneros

PA0112194089 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1820 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] General Maxwell Thurman and General Marc Cisneros, the U.S. commanders of the Panama Canal defense sites, have been requested by the honorable Jorge Isaac Chandek, representative of the Ancon Community Board, to appear before the Ancon Police Magistrate Court.

The reason for the request was explained to this radio station by Honorable Jorge Isaac Chandek.

[Begin Chandek recording] I have been forced to present—before the appropriate authority, who in this case is Ancon Police Magistrate Alex Jaen—a formal note requesting the issuance of a summons against U.S. General Marc Cisneros and General Maxwell Thurman, the U.S. commanders of the Panama Canal defense sites. The reasons for this action are obvious, and they include public order disruption through the noisy mobilization of troops, armored vehicles, helicopters, and planes; threats against peaceful citizens with heavy and light weapons; damage to public property; and acts of provocation against and disregard for the Panamanian police. [end recording]

The aforementioned high-ranking military officers will have to appear before the Ancon Police Magistrate Court on the morning of Monday, 4 December, to respond to the accusations made by the Honorable Chandek.

Meanwhile, and after issuing the summons against Thurman and Cisneros, Ancon Police Magistrate Alex Jaen said:

[Begin Jaen recording] The Administrative Code has clear provisions that force us, as the administrators of the Ancon Police Magistrate Court, to process the accusations filed by Ancon Corregimiento Representative Jorge Isaac Chandek. In compliance with clear provisions included in the Administrative Code, we have processed the accusations filed by Chandek against the actions of Generals Marc Cisneros and Maxwell Thurman.

As the law establishes, we first issued a formal summons. If Gen Cisneros and Gen Thurman fail to respond to the summons, they would obviously be disobeying the Panamanian civilian police authorities, which in this case is the Ancon police magistrate. If they fail to acknowledge the summons, they would be subject to sanctions and would be considered fugitives of Panamanian justice for refusing to appear before it.

At present, we have only issued a summons asking the said generals to appear before the Panamanian authorities to face the charges filed by the Honorable Chandek based on the law. After that, it will be up to us to decide whether or not there is reason to apply sanctions. However, they have to appear before the Panamanian authorities, because the Ancon Corregimiento is under Panamanian jurisdiction and therefore Panamanian law has to be respected in this area.

The accusations filed by the Honorable Chandek are based on the law as established by the Administrative Code articles, which those gentlemen have violated with the actions they have carried out in our territory. [end recording]

Immediately after issuing the summons at the Ancon Police Magistrate Court, the Honorable Chandek and Police Magistrate Jaen went to the General Command of the Defense and Security Commission, COGECODESE, where they delivered the summons to the deputy chief of COGECODESE, Major Ruben Rodriguez, who will send the summons to the aforementioned U.S. generals as the Torrijos-Carter Treaties establish in these cases.

Letter Requesting Summons

PA0212182889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Dec 89 p 2

[Letter sent by Ancon Corregimiento Representative Jorge Isaac Chandeck to Ancon Police Magistrate Alex Jaen—date and place not given]

[Text] I, Jorge Isaac Chandeck, male, single, Panamanian, an adult, with Identification Card No 8-118-777, hereby present a formal accusation on behalf of Ancon Corregimiento residents against Generals Marcos Cisneros and Maxwell Thurman, U.S. chiefs of the Panama Canal defense sites, because of the serious harassment operations frequently conducted in the areas of Gamboa, Balboa, Paraiso, Curundu, Amador, and other areas with the troops and war equipment under their orders. Those illegal actions have obstructed traffic many times and have disturbed public order through the noisy mobilization of troops, armored vehicles, helicopters, and planes. In addition, peaceful Panamanian citizens have been threatened with heavy and light weapons, private property has been damaged, and there have been acts of provocation against and disregard for the Panamanian police authorities.

I ask the police authorities to summon these generals and subsequently impose an exemplary punishment on them for their violations of the law. I ask the authorities to place these generals under custody for the benefit and tranquility of Panamanian citizens.

The current request is legally based on the following: Articles 900 to 906; Articles 932, 957, and 976 of the Administrative Code; Article 17 of Decree 245 of 26 May 1960; Article 956 along with Article 3 of Law 112 of 30 December 1974; Article 17 of Law 44 of 1953; and Articles 64 and 65 of Law 20 of 20 September 1983.

Evidence: As the Panamanian people know, especially the residents of the Ancon community, the aforementioned mobilizations are conducted frequently, but I am willing to provide documents and witnesses as evidence whenever they are required.
Sincerely yours,
Jorge Isaac Chandeck
Honorable Representative of The Free Ancon Community Board

Summons Published

PA0212185889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Dec 89 p 2

[Summons issued by Ancon Police Magistrate Alex Jaen against U.S. General Marc Cisneros in Panama City on 1 December]

[Text] Panama City Municipality

Ancon Police Magistrate Court

Under the jurisdiction of the Panama Defense Forces General Command of the Defense and Security Commission,

We hereby summon General Marcos Cisneros to appear before this court for judicial proceedings at 1000 on Monday, 4 December, to respond to an accusation filed against him by Honorable Representative Jorge Isaac Chandeck.

Panama City, 1 December 1989

Alex Jaen

Ancon police magistrate

[Caption under photocopy of summons states: "Summonses signed by the Ancon police magistrate were issued against Generals Marc Cisneros and Maxwell Thurman to respond to an accusation filed by Honorable Ancon Representative Jorge Isaac Chandeck"]

Costa Rican Helicopter Crashes Near U.S. Base

PA0212024089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0212 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A civilian helicopter owned by a Costa Rican citizen crashed today near a military base of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama.

Sources close to the Southern Command reported that the helicopter crashed at approximately 1500 (2000 GMT), 5 km from Howard Air Force Base and about 20 km from Panama City.

Southern Command spokesmen confirmed the accident, but refused to tell ACAN-EFE who was piloting the helicopter and if there were any survivors.

Sources from the Panama Defense Forces have told ACAN-EFE that they had no details about the accident, as they did not participate in the rescue operations, but they observed there was bad weather at the time of the accident.

A source close to the Southern Command said the helicopter was owned by a Costa Rican and used for insect control, adding it was coming from Costa Rica to a place he did not specify.

Flight 'Completely Illegal'

PA0312015689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] A helicopter belonging to Helicopter Air Service [Aeroservicios de Helicopteros], which operates out of the Costa Rican town of Nicoya, crashed on 1 December near the port of Vacamonte, killing one person.

The helicopter, No H-205, had two people aboard—pilot Charles Stockwell, whose body has not yet been recovered from Panamanian waters, and the copilot, Costa Rican Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Ney Escobar Alfaro, age 35, who was not injured.

At the time of the accident, the Costa Rican helicopter had overflown Panamanian airspace without previously coordinating with Panama's civil aeronautic authorities. After his rescue, Lt Col Escobar Alfaro pointed out that the helicopter's pilot, Charles Stockwell, was coming from Costa Rica to meet with someone at Howard Air Force Base with whom he constantly kept in touch. Escobar Alfaro also said that there had been reconnaissance flights on different [words indistinct].

There are strong signs that this same company has been involved in reconnaissance missions, logistical support, mobilization of command groups, infiltration, and contra support in Nicaragua. It has also been disclosed that this organization is among the tentacles created by Oliver North that still function under the coordination of the U.S. National Security Council.

It was also brought out that Lt Col Escobar Alfaro, who survived the accident, is involved in dirty actions on the Central American isthmus, and that the Costa Rican Government is aware of this. The 1 December flight in Panamanian air space was completely illegal.

Meanwhile, the helicopter was recovered today at 1500 by Panamanian authorities, whose efforts were obstructed by U.S. military troops, who have stationed helicopters and armored boats in the area. The Americans even dared to order the Panamanian rescue authorities to leave the area. Nevertheless, the Panamanians have remained at the site, because they are in Panama's jurisdictional waters, and they are still searching for Stockwell's body.

Investigations are underway to establish the degree of the Costa Rican and U.S. Governments' involvement in illegal actions against the countries of the Central American isthmus.

U.S. 'Violated' Panamanian Waters

PA0312004089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Dec 89 pp 1, 14

[Text] A helicopter, with registration number 98024 and flown by Charlie Stockwell, fell and sank in the sea at the port of Vacamonte, Arraijan District, yesterday at 1515, according to witnesses.

The aircraft, a B-205 type, is owned by Aereo Servicio, headquartered in Costa Rica, and the pilot was accompanied by a still unidentified passenger.

The U.S. Army South, illegally stationed in Panama, has again violated Panamanian territorial waters. A "Cobra" helicopter and then a U.S. Navy torpedo boat arrived at the site of the accident. The pilot's body was taken away in the boat without respecting Panamanian laws—which demand that a member of the attorney general's office be present when the body is removed.

The "Cobra" helicopter flying over the site of the accident withdrew when a FAP [Panamanian Air Force] helicopter arrived.

Tourism Official Says U.S. Army Closed Beach

PA0212025189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0147 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 1 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Bernardo Dominguez, director of the Panamanian Institute of Tourism (IPAT), charged on 1 December that the U.S. Army South stationed on the Panama Canal banks has closed a beach on the Pacific side of the country.

Dominguez explained that the beach, which was closed without any explanation and which is under Panamanian jurisidiction, is on a military defense site that the U.S. Army has on the Pacific coast.

The IPAT Director said that on 1 December he sent a protest letter to the U.S. provost marshal over "this new violation of the Torrijos-Carter" Treaties both countries signed in 1977.

One of the main U.S. air bases in Panama is located near the closed beach.

Reaction to Ban on Panamanian-Flagged Ships

Government Diplomat Comments

PA0112181789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1655 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Tokyo, 1 Dec (EFE)—According to the Japanese Transportation Ministry, Japanese shipping companies will change the registry of many of their merchant ships currently operating under Panamanian flag to avoid being affected by the U.S. sanctions that will be applied against Panama beginning on 1 February 1990.

In an official communique, the Japanese Transportation Ministry says that 200 of the 800 Japanese ships under Panamanian flag, including 24 container ships and 42 ships that carry vehicles by a set route, will be affected by the U.S. sanctions against General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime.

The communique adds that the moment the U.S. threats against Panama on banning the docking of Panamanian ships in U.S. ports were learned of on 9 November, the Transportation Ministry informed the Japanese shipping companies of the problem so that they could adopt the appropriate strategy and therefore prevent their services from being affected by the new measures.

A spokesman of the Japanese association of shipping companies said that he could not give the exact number of ships that would change their flagging, and he added that the situation would be assessed calmly "to avoid jeopardizing the good relations with the United States."

Panamanian Government Envoy Hugo Torrijos expressed to EFE in Tokyo "his surprise and indignation over the application of the said measures by the United States—a country that describes itself as democratic—despite the requests made by many nations, including the Panamanian opposition itself."

Torrijos, director of the Consular and Ships Directorate of the Panamanian Finance and Treasury Ministry, is trying to negotiate a strategy to protect this Panamanian source of income with the Asian shipping companies.

Hugo Torrijos described the U.S. measure as "irreparable damage to the Panamanian economy" and reiterated that his country would help Japanese shipowners to facilitate the flagging change process as much as possible.

According to Torrijos, the Japanese shipowners rejected the U.S. sanctions during today's meeting, although he regretted that the Japanese Government did not issue an official statement against the United States.

Torrijos added: "The only thing we can do now is to assess the economic consequences for the Panamanian merchant navy of the changes in flags and to offer all our cooperation to the shipowners."

The Panamanian diplomat said: "We never thought the United States would go this far." And he added: "But what seems even more incredible to us is that the United States feels it has more right to give an opinion regarding our country's government than the Panamanian opposition itself, which has stated that it disagrees with the sanctions."

Torrijos, who will return to Panama tomorrow, 2 December, revealed: "There is nothing to do here, except to offer all our help to the Japanese shipowners and request their trust."

According to Japanese official sources, the complicated bureaucratic procedures needed to change the ships' registries will create serious problems for the maritime transportation industry on which many Japanese exports to the United States depend.

Newspaper Commentary

PA0312235289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Dec 89 p A1

[Article by Juan David Morgan]

[Text] The President of the United States has announced that any of the world's merchant marine ships flying Panamanian flags cannot dock at U.S. ports after 31 January 1990. According to the White House, the purpose of the measure is to continue to isolate Noriega's regime internationally and to deprive it of the revenue derived from that branch of Panama's economy.

U.S. policy leaders apparently believe, or better yet want to make the world believe, that General Noriega is aboard every Panamanian-flagged ship and that by blocking these ships from their ports they are isolating him and his regime. They choose to ignore the fact that the only Panamanian thing about these ships is the flag, because they are ships of all countries of the world. The effect of the U.S. ban will be felt first by the ship builders, and then by the bankers who finance the building of the ships, by the merchants who transport their goods on the ships, and of course by all Panamanians whose work and livelihood depend on this very important sector of Panama's economy. When the U.S. measure achieves its total effect, it will be seen that those who have been isolated are not Noriega and his regime, but a group of Panamanian people who by and large have nothing to do with Noriega or his regime.

The U.S. measure also seeks to deprive the Noriega regime of money to precipitate his fall from power. The consequences will be exactly the opposite. Experience has shown us that those ships that are docking at U.S. ports and flying the Panamanian flag today are canceling their registrations under the Panamanian flag before flying the flag of another country. These cancellations are creating hundreds of thousands of balboas for the Panamanian Treasury, helping it to fare better during Christmas. Of course, in the long run the Panamanian Treasury will be deprived of tens of millions of dollars, but for each dollar that the Treasury does not receive, the Panamanian private sector, opposition par excellence of the Noriega regime, will not receive twice as much. Therefore, the punishment meted out by the U.S. leaders will be felt more by the opposition to the Noriega regime than by Noriega himself.

It is paradoxical that the U.S. President chose to announce the ban on Panamanian-flagged ships on the eve of his departure for Malta to meet with the president of the Soviet Union and talk about the new liberty, whose hurricane gales are hitting the East European countries with great force. The paradox, of course, is that while the communist bloc is disintegrating in the face of their people's irrepressible desire for liberty, the United States of America, the forefather and paladin of that liberty, is dedicated to limiting it through sanctions. These sanctions negate the liberty of world trade and of the individuals directly affected by this, in a country which for more than 75 years has been its ally and which today is its partner in the Panama Canal, a waterway open to the ships of all flags of the world. Noriega's regime is a political phenomenon, and, as such, it will pass. Unfortunately, however, the consequences of the U.S. sanctions imposed on Panama directly affect the way our country has taken advantage of its most precious resource: its geographic position. Many Panamanians will wonder what the real intentions and objectives of the sanctions have been, sanctions that our partner, the number one defender of liberty and democracy, has imposed on our country.

Column Decries Ship Ban

PA0212233589 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Dec 89 p 5

[From the "Scoops" column]

[Text] The infamy plotted by the United States of America and supported by a few Latin American countries concerning the arrival of Panamanian registry ships in U.S. ports has been unmasked. The Bush Administration demanded that these nations support the maritime boycott against Panama, and the bad leaders of nations offering the so-called "convenience ship registration" agreed to reduce their registration fees to facilitate a quick change of flags "to whoever wishes to do so." You will recognize them for their deeds.

Lawyers View 'Dangerous' Precedent

PA0212175989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1342 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Report by Rolando Rodriguez]

[Excerpt] Panama City, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian lawyers and businessmen have expressed their concern over the U.S. Government's decision to ban the entry of Panamanian-flagged ships into U.S. ports. They have noted that this action could prompt Panamanian officials to issue the same sanctions against U.S. ships.

ACAN-EFE questioned several sources—who asked not to be identified—who stated that this sanction could set a "dangerous" precedent, because the Panamanian Government could adopt similar measures against U.S. ships and this would affect many U.S. firms established in Panama.

However, the Panamanian Government has not yet made any statement that it will take similar measures in the future.

Panama registers the most ships in the world—more than 12,000—and ranks second in registered tonnage. Liberia lags closely behind Panama.

The U.S. measure was announced on 30 November, and, according to the White House, its goal is to increase pressure on the Panamanian "strongman" General Manuel Antonio Noriega so he will abandon his post as Panama Defense Forces commander.

The Panamanian-registered ships will not be able to use U.S. ports as of 1 February 1990, and according to the U.S. Embassy in Panama "will stop Noriega from getting several million dollars in income."

The U.S. Embassy bulletin adds that "Noriega's cronies will be deprived of millions of dollars in income from bribes and illegal commissions."

However, a Panamanian lawyer, who is a member of an important Panama City lawyers' firm, is of the opinion that the U.S. measure "will not obtain its objective nor will it manage to budge Noriega one single inch," but, contrary to what is expected, will increase the resentment against the United States.

A U.S. businessmen who manages a local shipping firm told ACAN-EFE that this "is a mortal blow to Panama's registry of ships" and called the measure "another ring in the circus in which we are living." This businessman said that he hoped Panama "will think carefully before giving a counterblow," because it could very well "self-destruct."

All the sources questioned agreed that the Panamanian treasury will be the great loser in this battle, as it will receive $40 million less every year. Additionally, according to several sources, Panama will lose "very important" indirect incomes. [passage omitted]

Maritime Law Group Rejects Ban

PA0212165289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Panamanian lawyer Flavio Sanchez has said that the U.S. Government sanctions against Panamanian-flagged ships will cause unemployment in the Panamanian Foreign Service and Navy.

Sanchez added that lawyers will be the most affected by that U.S. Government measure, which is part of the escalation of U.S. aggression against Panama.

[Begin Sanchez recording] This is nothing but one more U.S. Government measure in the escalation of its aggression against Panama. The measure will obviously harm lawyers, because the flagging of ships is a source of income that both we and the Panamanian Government will cease to receive. Unfortunately, it looks as if there is no end in sight to this whole situation. In addition to professionals and the government itself, many Panamanian employees who work in maritime activities, including sailors, will undoubtedly also be affected by the new measure. Panamanian law establishes that no less than 15 percent of the crew on each Panamanian-flagged ship must be Panamanian. The new measure would obviously increase unemployment.

At present, 14 percent of the world's merchant navy is under the Panamanian flag. Thus, one can imagine how much this sanction will affect the working class.

One of the most affected sectors will be the services that Panama offers through its consulates. The sanction will reduce the number of professionals and experts who work abroad. The size of the current Panamanian merchant navy provides employment to a large number of people in the various Panamanian embassies, I mean consulates, throughout the world. With the new sanction, all those personnel will risk having to return to Panama. [end recording]

In addition, the Panamanian Association of Maritime Law issued a communique stressing its rejection of the measure adopted by the U.S. Government banning Panamanian-flagged ships from docking at U.S. ports.

The communique adds that the Panamanian merchant navy is the target of economic sanctions that will severely harm not only Panama, but also the international economic and financial community.

In its communique, the Panamanian Association of Maritime Law says the damage caused by the sanction will considerably affect national reconstruction, because it will be difficult to recover the users' trust.

Meanwhile, in London the International Trade Community expressed its concern over the U.S. decision to ban the docking of Panamanian-flagged ships at U.S. ports. (Chris Horocks), secretary general of the International Trade Community, said that Bush's measure sets a dangerous precedent, adding that he regretted that the merchant navy has been turned into a political pawn.

Panamanian opposition leaders of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance also rejected the U.S. Government measure, because they believe the measure seriously harms the Panamanian economy.

Law Firms Affected

PA0112143289 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 pp 1, 14

[Text] London, 30 Nov (ERSA-PRESS)—The U.S. Government's brutal and criminal decision not to allow Panamanian-flagged ships to dock in U.S. ports starting 1 February 1990 has caused much surprise in European naval circles. The measure will also affect large Panamanian law firms to a great extent.

In fact, the measures will affect Panamanian law firms such as Galindo, Arias, and Lopez; Arias, Fabrega, and Fabrega, whose president is Gilberto Arias; Alfaro, Ferrer, and Ramirez, whose president is Alfredo Ramirez; Franco and Franco, which belongs to Joaquin Fernando Franco; and Solis, Endara, and Delgado, one of whose partners is Hernan Delgado.

Other Panamanian law firms that would be seriously affected by the U.S. measures are: Carlos Lopez Guevara; Icaza, Gonzalez, Ruiz, and Aleman; Arosemena-Noriega and Contreras; Morgan and Morgan; Quijano and Associates; Patton-Moreno and Asvad; Tapia, Linares, and Alfaro; Sucre and Sucre; Cesar Pereira Burgos; and Solis and Associates.

This new form of pressure will affect 14 percent of the world's merchant vessels, which are registered in Panama because of the low operational cost.

Rodriguez Speaks at Anti-Intervention Conference

PA0212174189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Nov 89 pp 1, 11, 14, 18

[Speech by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez opening International Conference Against Intervention in Central America and Panama, at Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City on 27 November]

[Text] Delegates:

Upon welcoming you to our country on behalf of the Panamanian people and provisional government, I want to fulfill the pleasant duty of making a very special acknowledgement to you—your very presence here reveals to us a very encouraging aspect of the United States at the present time.

You represent a cross section of your country's society. You wish to see things with your own eyes and hear things with your own ears to form an opinion about our reality, about what is happening in Panama without the smokescreen laid by the controlled press and definitions in U.S. Government statements.

Whether you are here because of your political militancy, human solidarity, investigative zeal, or mere curiosity—regardless of the motives that have prompted you to come to our country—we welcome you with open arms, with a spirit of absolute frankness, and without a desire to hide anything, because amid our country's present plight what harms us most is what is not known about us, what is concealed, what is disguised, and what is distorted.

Therefore, from the bottom of my heart, I want to make a request of you that may seem to be very simple, but that often turns out to be quite difficult at times like this. By nature, we have a tendency to immediately reject anything that may indicate we are wrong or have been deceived. Aside from personal pride, we have internal conditioning that leads us to be reticent and prevents us from making the passage from a comfortable illusion to consciousness of an unpleasant reality. That passage, by the way, becomes even more difficult if it implies a change in behavior.

However, to be able to develop a clear view of the current situation in Panama, one must admit—even if only as a possibility—that in its policy with regard to our country, the United States is using language that has an opposite meaning at times and at other times implies something that is quite different from reality.

Aside from the information and comments that they may contain, the speeches you will hear here will present to you a very special feature of the Panamanian process. As cultured men with a capacity for analysis, you will be surprised to see that the speakers and commentators represent a wide variety of ideologies. You will notice that their ideas cover virtually the entire spectrum of contemporary political thinking, and that all of them are outstanding government officials and representatives of the process of transformation to which all of us Panamanians are committed. However, you will also notice a concurrence of opinion, and this is what gives meaning and value to our struggle for national liberation. All of them agree on the need to defend our right to complete Panama's independence. All of them regard a full exercise of our sovereignty as a supreme value. All of them recognize that the interests of our nation's population are above any foreign interest. All share the same indignation over the humiliations we have suffered and the lies about us.

You, whose nation has been free of foreign domination for 200 years, who have not suffered throughout your history the trauma of an invader's presence, who have slowly developed magnificent institutions, will have to perhaps make a generous effort to understand our desire for liberation and the goals that, amid blunders and successes, we have set for ourselves and are gradually fulfilling.

What could suddenly turn a small country with a limited population into an unexpected and extraordinary threat to U.S. security, economy, and foreign policy? What has caused such distortion of common sense to occur?

I ask you to accompany me now on a review of what the Panamanian Government has been and has done since the very minute power passed into the hands of the nationalist forces.

Since that time, Panama has been engaged in a process of development whose top priorities have been attention to the population's basic health, education, housing, and labor legislation needs and, above all, mass participation in decision-making, participation by all sectors in dialogue and coordination mechanisms, and a sense of equality—all of which put an end to political and economic predominance without inflicting even the slightest damage on the prevailing free enterprise and open market system.

We have made progress with social justice since then. This is evidenced by comparative per capita statistics on protein and calory consumption; access by the population to potable water and electricity; rural and urban telephone service; primary, secondary, and higher education; and free medical and dental services. Furthermore, if you make a proportional comparison of the Panamanian and U.S. illiteracy indexes, and even compare the infant mortality rate of our national population with that of the largest U.S. urban centers, you will get quite a surprise.

While the entire continent seemed to be gripped by an apocalyptic wave of destruction, fratricidal wars, and terror, the Panamanian process of transformation appropriately figured out what bases it should have to establish social equilibrium and thus enable us to continue living and working in peace.

Why not acknowledge that in this regard the government is profoundly democratic? Why does the formal presence of some institutions have to be considered essential? Panama does not have much available wealth to be exploited. Panama does not have the capability to produce huge amounts of goods to maintain social equilibrium based on some people living with plenty of everything, while others live off the illusion of someday securing that kind of life. Our limitations create for us the daily task of facing the explosiveness of unrest and misery. Fully convinced that we are all equals and have equal rights, we cannot disregard our obligation to find solutions. The task is difficult because these days the people have little patience and are not very passive.

I do not think it is out of place to tell you that we acknowledge the greatness of Jefferson, and you must acknowledge that of Bolivar. Bolivar never thought in Jeffersonian terms about Latin American governments. He did not enclose his national plans in the framework of Montesquieu's three branches of power. In his Angostura speech, Bolivar left for us a beautiful goal when he said: "The best system of government is that which produces the most happiness, the most social security, and the most political stability."

Can it be a threat to the world's foremost power if a country as small as Panama behaves as if that goal is the best road and as if that road could produce better results than all the institutions envisaged in the U.S. Constitution?

I do not want to extend myself too much in this social liberation aspect of our national liberation struggle. We do not pretend to teach anyone, and we do not look forward to having others imitate us and think like us.

For this reason, I will add that the solution to the current conflict between our two countries must be based, for humane and moral reasons, on the acknowledgement that a regime different from that of the United States has the right to exist without having to be socialist or communist. Now even the so-called communist regimes are beginning to acknowledge this right.

Delegates, I want to discuss now some little-known circumstances involved in the collision between the U.S. and Panamanian Governments.

In 1983, special U.S. Senate commissions debated Panama's financial and banking center, as if it were a problem. Together with the pressure that the U.S. Government applies to recover deposits and to attract financial capital from other places, it began exerting pressure on our country under the pretext that there was money laundering by drug traffickers. The first staining of Panama, in the plan to discredit Panama's image, came then. In August of that year, General Manuel Antonio Noriega took over the post of commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

Panama cooperated as much as it could, as long as this cooperation did not present any serious harm to our banking system. In 1987, for example, weeks before the beginning of the aggression, the Panamanian Government carried out the Pisces Operation, an operation that Mr Edwin Meese, who at that time was attorney general of the United States, publicly characterized as the most serious blow in history inflicted on money laundering by drug traffickers.

In 1984, the Panamanian Government decided not to authorize the presence of the School of the Americas for an extended period of time. This school had been accused for a long time of being a center that served oppressive regimes on the continent. This decision was not acknowledged and was viewed as the first important insubordination by Panamanian nationalism.

Late in 1985, Admiral John Poindexter came to Panama to speak with General Noriega and to ask that the FDP support the aggression against Nicaragua. Has there been any acknowledgment of the courage Panama's military demonstrated by refusing to be an accomplice, despite the fact that it received explicit threats?

In 1986, the U.S. Government changed its ambassador to Panama, reorganized its diplomatic personnel, and mounted an operation right out of the CIA's psychological operations manual, just as the Panamanian foreign minister charged at the OAS when the sedition movement was launched.

I wish to add something that has not been widely disseminated in the United States, except for a report appearing in THE WASHINGTON POST. On 12 July 1988, DEA Director John C. Lawn testified before a Senate committee and said that he had never seen any evidence linking Gen Noriega to narcotics trafficking. This statement was made 5 months after that famous decision by the grand jury of the State of Florida.

The rest of the story is not what you have read in the U.S. press. I do not want to ask you to accept as truth what our speakers will tell about the last 2 years. I only want to ask you to recognize the need to seek what is the truth in the case of Panama, to listen to our version, and to give due consideration to this version when you make a judgment.

Now, I prefer you concentrate your attention on some aspects of our situation that you can see for yourselves. These are matters that concern the ideals that the U.S. people represent in the world and that show the terrible nature of the outrages that are being committed against my country.

As an example of the excesses committed by the U.S. Government, I must point out that the blacklist of Panamanian government offices has included the Panamanian Special Rehabilitation Institute (IPHE), an institution entrusted with educating, rehabilitating, and treating children who have mental and physical handicaps.

In addition, the so-called exercises that the U.S. Armed Forces are carrying out include many cases of maneuvers with combat planes to harass commercial airplanes. There have been several incidents where there could have been collisions, including an Eastern Airlines flight in May 1988, as well as incidents with the commercial airlines of other countries.

Then there are also the maneuvers that consisted of the military occupation of the water purification plant serving three-fourths of the metropolitan population, including tens of thousands of U.S. citizens. This hostile military action was carried out without any consideration of the real possibility of damaging or contaminating the water supply. It would be a good idea for you to review our videotapes containing the most recent incidents, so you can try to imagine what U.S. youths would think if they saw U.S. Army vehicles running over women and U.S. troops beating defenseless people and pointing their rifles at children and women who are peacefully bathing at a beach chosen by the U.S. soldiers for conducting their arrogant procovations.

A few days ago, U.S. troops using armored vehicles blocked the entrance to the national office for the eradication of malaria. While the Panamanian Government is making efforts to fight a sudden appearance of Anopheles mosquitos, which are the carriers of malaria, yellow fever, and dengue, and while our government is making efforts to prevent the outbreak of an epidemic, which would endanger the Panamanian people's health as well as the health of the 50,000 U.S. citizens living in Panama, the U.S. Southern Command decides to hinder the operations of that state institution that incessantly works to fight the Aedes Aegypti.

I am sure U.S. youths will be even more surprised by the number of fatal and unnecessary accidents that have taken the lives of many U.S. soldiers who were conducting military maneuvers that no one can justify without resorting to fantastic ambiguities and odd arguments. The U.S. press systematically hides those accidents, or reports them with changes in the circumstances and the number of dead and injured. The most tragic element in all this is that our authorities are absolutely convinced that if those exercises had been carried out legally, in other words with the participation, support, and coordination of the FDP as the Torrijos-Carter Treaties establish, some of those accidents could have been avoided. It is important to stress that in the case of the helicopter that crashed off the coast of a seaside resort near Panama City, the U.S. troops did not even let the Panamanian swimmers help in the rescue operations.

Where are the enemies of the United States? Here? Where are the ambushes, attacks, terrorist actions, and violent actions against U.S. military or civilian personnel? Here? What are the dangers that threaten the U.S. military installations in Panama, if the only threat is coming from the U.S. Armed Forces themselves, if the only violent actions are the ones they carry out, and if the only danger is the one created by their illegal and arrogant mobilizations throughout our territory?

I am sure that none of you will deny the assertions that everything the United States has been doing in Panama has the purpose of removing General Manuel Antonio Noriega from the FDP, of overthrowing the Panamanian Government, and of installing a Panamanian regime willing to please the White House. That is something everybody knows. Not even the highest U.S. Government officials try to hide that fact anymore. In fact, they arrogantly reiterate their intentions in public and for no reason.

You know that the U.S. Government violates international law with these actions. In addition to its moral culpability, there is another, very serious violation. Two articles in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties stipulate that the United States must make sure that neither its Armed Forces nor its civilian officials meddle in our domestic affairs.

If the fact that Admiral Colin Powell is the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces and that President George Bush is in the White House is a U.S. domestic affair, what is the difference in the case of Panama? Is this not a whim caused by the arrogance of power?

What happens in Panama these days has nothing to do with democracy or the ideals of justice and liberty, because there is not a single instance in the history of the American continent in which a U.S. military intervention or covert action resulted in establishing democracy.

Panama regards the U.S. people as friends. The Panamanian people are friendly to and admire the U.S. people. Despite the 86 years of deception and humiliations, we continue to feel the vital strength of a bond that is very difficult to break or replace. Nevertheless, we are unwilling to bend to recover or keep this friendship. For the Panamanian people, the homeland, the nation, and full independence come first. All this, however, cannot constitute a threat against the U.S. people, who surely feel a similar regard for their country.

Nevertheless, a very dangerous threat lurks in the strategy that the United States is applying in Panama, because the peoples of the American continent have been suffering foreign control for nearly 5 centuries of servitude and misery for the majorities. Our problems are of such a magnitude that they cannot be resolved with magic.

What does the current crusade for democracy represent in the somber panorama of hopelessness and privation?

The invisible armies of the U.S. intelligence services keep showering our people with a merciless rain of signs to lead them into thinking that all of their suffering and problems are the result of not having a government like the one Washington wants to give them.

While we make efforts to educate, to reform the civil virtues of work and human solidarity, and to clarify the proper relationship between a man's effort and well-being, the United States, taking advantage of our ignorance and desperation, put before our people mirages impossible to make come true. They come to cheat our youths by showing them a paradise where everyone has a swimming pool and a luxury car at home, where all judges are saints, where all laws are just and always applied, and where even the criminals and drug addicts are portrayed as heroes.

What happens when our girls and boys return from the United States—where they went to seek a paradise—with their hands empty and their dreams shattered?

This is the hard and convulsed society that political leaders have to contend with in America at present. This is the heavy burden that Latin American statesmen must carry on their shoulders. The task becomes much more arduous and complex in the case of Panama, because our moral convictions proscribe the use of terror. The task is all the harder because all our aspirations have a common premise—the preservation of domestic peace—and because our president sits down at a table to talk with peasants and workers, professionals and artisans, intellectuals and politicians, students and teachers, leaders of ethnic minorities, representatives of religious confessions, the rich and the poor. He speaks with them all on an equal basis and with the same respect and consideration, because otherwise we would lose the grass-roots base of our national liberation struggle.

What you will hear will deal with human rights, democracy, elections, and all the matters that acquire great importance in the U.S. press when the country in question is not regarded as a friend of the United States, and which vanish from newscasts and commentaries when the government involved enjoys Washington's approval.

We are willing to comply with all the formal requirements decreed by the international community. None of us believe that merely having a good health certificate is enough, because the offended and the persecuted always take special interest in projecting a good image through their acts. We will go even farther, because we are determined to prove something that the superpowers have refused to admit as possible among the less privileged countries of America.

The United States and the other powers must realize that through our own efforts, despite all the obstacles, we Panamanians are capable of creating a model democracy, with social structures that adequately meet the people's needs in health, education, work, and spiritual elevation. We can do this without sacrificing open debate and the free exchange of ideas. However, we can do this only if the United States acknowledges the Republic of Panama's right to be a free, independent, and sovereign nation with a society that places national interests above foreign ones.

The solution to the existing conflict between our countries, which has been called a defeat of the U.S. policy in Panama, is that simple.

You with your presence here have allowed us to envisage a new conscience in the U.S. people. Because we are aware that your country's institutional organization will make that conscience prevail at this crucial time in the future of all American nations, I tell you that the U.S. people will win more in terms of prosperity and security if each of the continent's nations becomes a society bent on generating the most welfare possible, because this is the way a nation generates more riches.

This free and independent determination of our peoples, at last without foreign masters, will make the inevitable link between our own cultures and economies and the U.S. culture and economy more fruitful and beneficial for the U.S. people. It is not farfetched to say openly and simply that the less poverty and disenchantment there are in Latin America, the less poverty and fewer frustrations there will be in the United States. In this way we can contribute together to a better world for humanity. Thank you.

FDP Views Conference on U.S. Intervention

PA0312200189 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1653 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Commentary from the "Our Director Tells Us" segment of the weekly Panama Defense Forces (FDP) "Todos Por La Patria" program]

[Text] Aggression or war? The prohibition of Panamanian-flagged vessels at U.S. ports, beginning on 1 February 1990, is another flagrant violation for the Panamanian people. For the arrogant northern country to tarnish the signature of former President Carter, and disregard the obligations established in an international agreement, ratified by both countries and blessed by the world's community, has become a habit that shows the full pictue of those self-proclaimed champions of democracy and their respect for human rights.

A few days ago, 110 people representing the U.S. community were able to directly evaluate our situation, without the influence of the wicked disinformation that they are used to in their country. There are no kidnappings or political assassinations in Panama. Taking into consideration the circumstances we have been forced into because of the aggression, Panama has tranquility and unity in its quest for total sovereignty and self-determination. For this reason the destabilization upsurge against our institutions has crashed a against the wall of patriotic and nationalistic dignity of the heroic Panamanian people.

We know that U.S. foreign policy with its neighbors has never been the most consistent and that its meddling and aggressive attitudes have disturbed the happy coexistence of the Latin American people. Peace and tranquility have disappeared from our daily lives to lead the way toward fratricidal war, death, and grief.

We hope the trade unionists, councilmen, church representatives, Indians, professionals, teachers, and people from the U.S. communities who took part in the conference on U.S. intervention will spread the truth about Panama and Central America, so the U.S. people change their outlook concerning us, which results from the planned disinformation that has become the main thrust of the U.S. imperialist strategy. These delegates will serve as our ambassadors, the ambassadors of our truth.

PRD Leader Views Noriega Speech, Ban on Ships

PA0312214189 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 3 Dec 89 p 28A

["This Week" column by Carlos Duque, president of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD]

[Text] We had the opportunity to hear a political speech delivered by Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega at the closing of the international meeting on the Panamanian situation, which took place in Panama City on 29 November. This has been Gen Noriega's most complete speech since the beginning of the current political crisis in Panama. His speech contained a very deep message, and it not only served to present with the utmost clarity the current situation in Panama, but also contained significant political perspectives.

One aspect of high political value was his expressed willingness to discuss the Panamanian political situation directly with the U.S. Government, without the intervention of mediators or amicable problem solvers.

He clearly stated his willingness to hold direct talks with the United States of America.

We recall that last August the national government presented to the opposition a negotiated solution to the political crisis. However, they rejected that proposal, refusing to give the fatherland their efforts and participation.

The current political situation, which has been aggravated since its beginning by the United States' direct intervention in our domestic affairs, requires careful analysis, good judgment, and above all, firm and unyielding positions. That was the tone of Gen Noriega's speech. It shows he is aware that the United States provoked the current crisis, and that therefore there cannot be any solution unless that country calls a halt to its political, economic, and military aggression against Panama.

The message for Panamanians and the world was clear and categorical: The Panamanian Government, including the Panama Defense Forces, is willing to hold direct talks with the White House regarding our national political situation, because we Panamanians have the necessary political ability, initiative, and willingness to solve our own problems without the intervention of any foreign power.

With this, Panama has again shown the world that we are a people who love peace and favor political agreements with absolute respect for our condition as a sovereign state.

On another subject, we must state our strong protest and condemnation in this weekly analysis against the recent measure announced by the Bush administration banning Panamanian-registered ships from U.S. ports. Never before had the world's merchant marine been used as a weapon for political attacks or pressures. This decision, which will influence the general cost of canal tolls and obviously will have consequences on shipping costs, will not only affect Panama, but many other countries as well.

George Bush will be given historic recognition (?) for having taken his ignoble persecution against Panama and the Panamanians to the most incredible and condemnable limits.

To end this column, in the domestic field we must congratulate the members of the various Dignity Battalions for the extraordinary organization, courage, and boldness they have steadily shown during the past days.

These brave compatriots, under the leadership of Colamarco, Eloy Mercado, Marquinez, Niple, Moreno Saavedra, and so many others, have shown with their actions, with their chests burning with real patriotism, that when the fatherland calls, there are no conditions!

The members of the various CODEPADIs [Committees for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity] deserve a similar recognition. They have also set a unique example that encourages our struggle for national liberation. We reaffirm our conviction that, no matter how hard the battle may seem, in the end Panama shall win! Together we will sing our national anthem at noon on 31 December 1999, when the last peg of colonialism will definitely be removed from our soil.

Let no one doubt it!

Until next Sunday.

Liberal Party Voices Support for Noriega

PA0212034889 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p 8

[Liberal Party communique issued on 30 November in Panama City]

[Text] The Liberal Party [PL] acknowledges the importance of the statements made by General Manuel Antonio Noriega on 29 November when he addressed the delegates of the International Conference Against Intervention in Central America at the Atlapa Convention Center. The PL wishes to make public its opinion on this subject since these statements are very important for the immediate future of the Republic.

In his speech, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega included basic aspects of our relations with the United States dating back to the early years of our history as a Republic and took it up to the recent economic and physical aggressions by that country against our nation.

In addition to displaying a thorough knowledge of the topics on which he spoke, Gen Noriega displayed a high sense of nationalist responsibility and an exemplary patriotism when he said that "we are determined to speak in a dignified manner and on equal conditions for finding a solution to the differences between Panama and the United States."

The PL fully identifies with the principles of the national liberation struggle as explained by Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, and we reiterate our full support to him, as we are certain he will lead our Republic on the paths of peace and well-being. For the National Executive Committee, Rodolfo Chiari De Leon, president; Gonzalo Tapia, vice president; Alberto Arango N., vice president; Targidio Bernal, vice president; Gustavo Perez, treasurer; Carlos Orillac, secretary general; Dario Gonzalez de la Barrera, recording secretary. Panama, 30 November 1989

ADOC Leaders Reject More U.S. Sanctions

PA0112184789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Dec 89 p C 2

["Declaration" issued by the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance leaders in Panama City on 29 November]

[Text] Our country's grave economic and financial crisis is the result, first of all, of actions taken by the current regime. It has resulted from political errors and corruption that have characterized it throughout the years, as well as from the radical lack of confidence in the domestic and international fields created by its repressive and anti-democratic measures during the past 2 years.

General U.S. sanctions have aggravated this crisis, although they did not cause it. According to media reports, the U.S. Government is considering the possibility of implementing additional sanctions. Those sanctions would probably increase unemployment and poverty, which have already reached dramatic levels. Therefore, we disagree with general sanctions that affect the Panamanian people, whose human and economic sacrifices to achieve democracy have been and continue to be exemplary.

That possibility dramatizes how urgent it is that we Panamanians find, as soon as possible, a democratizing solution for the current overall crisis we are facing. Therefore, we reaffirm our willingness to reach an agreement as soon as possible with the Defense Forces, so we may immediately begin our country's democratization.

Without democracy, internal confrontations, which dangerously lead us to situations of violence, will continue to deepen. Without democracy, the conflict with the United States of America and the isolation with the rest of the international community will also continue to grow, seriously limiting our possibilities for economic development and social well-being. With democracy, however, Panamanians could reconcile on the basis of respect for the people's sovereignty, and at the same time we could normalize our international relations with total respect for our national sovereignty.

Panama City, 29 November 1989

Guillermo Endara, president-elect

Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president-elect

Guillermo Ford, second vice president-elect

Treaty Affairs Chief Discusses Canal Treaty

PA0312183189 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 3 Dec 89 p 16A

[Statement by Captain Severino Mejia, executive director of the Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate, DEPAT, regarding the appointment of a Panama Canal administrator, dated 1 December]

[Text] The Panama Canal Treaties of 7 September 1977—international agreements by which the United States is committed to gradually transferring the administration, protection and defense of our interoceanic canal to the Republic of Panama—became effective on 1 October 1979.

One of the main steps toward achieving this objective is complying with Article III, Point 3 (C) of the Treaties, which reads:

The United States of America shall employ a national of the United States of America as Administrator of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC], and a Panamanian national as Deputy Administrator, through December 31, 1989. Beginning 1 January 1990, a Panamanian national shall be employed as the Administrator and a national of the United States of America shall occupy the position of Deputy Administrator. Such Panamanian nationals shall be proposed to the United States of America by the Republic of Panama for appointment to such positions by the United States of America.

In keeping with this requirement, the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Panama approved Law 16 of 27 June 1989, establishing the internal procedures to be followed by the Republic of Panama to propose the Panamanian who will be appointed PCC administrator. The law stipulates that "this citizen must be designated by the Legislative Assembly through a resolution approved by an absolute majority of its members."

After reviewing the merits and background of seven candidates, the Legislative Assembly elected Gabriel Altamirano Duque—with 42 votes in favor, none against, and 13 abstentions—as the Panamanian who should be appointed administrator effective 1 January 1990.

The United States has no legal grounds to condition the appointment of a Panamanian administrator, and if it does, it will present to the world the most recent proof of its continuous violations of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Any appointment by the U.S. Government of a Panamanian citizen other than Altamirano Duque will be a violation of the treaties that no Panamanian aware of his responsibilities as a citizen of this nation could ever accept.

[Signed] Captain Severino Mejia, DEPAT executive director.

Panama City, 1 December 1989

Letter to PCC Deputy Administrator Manfredo

PA0112192289 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 Nov 89 p 12

[Letter dated 22 November from Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, publisher of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, to Fernando Manfredo, deputy administrator of the Panama Canal Commission]

[Text] Mr Deputy Administrator: This is in reply to your letter regarding an article in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that reports your willingness to accept the illegal appointment of acting administrator of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC].

You are only telling a half truth when you say, among other things, that the true problem is not Fernando Manfredo, but the existing crisis between the U.S. Government and Panama. The other half of the truth, which you are trying to disguise with your arguments, is that only Manfredo can provide an apparently legal formula so the U.S. Government can commit a "presentable" illegal action. By accepting this appointment, however, you will never be able to disguise, in the eyes of the Panamanian people, the fact that you will be perpetrating the censurable crime of high treason.

Neither the will of the U.S. Government, nor your opinion, nor the PCC's regulations or charter can alter the fact that as of 1 January 1990 the canal administrator must be a Panamanian citizen proposed by Panama.

You said that a problem exists because there are only two choices: Either you are appointed or no one will be. Regardless of whether I am the person that Panama proposed for the position or not, the true problem is quite another: Either the U.S. Government appoints a Panamanian citizen proposed by Panama or it flagrantly violates the treaties. The U.S. Government will not be able to conceal this violation from the eyes of the world or the U.S. public, no matter what rhetoric or trick it uses. This is particularly serious because it violates the U.S. Constitution, whose Article 6 stipulates that the treaties signed with other countries are binding in the United States.

The responsibility that the U.S. Government would incur for this violation of the treaties and the Constitution is what prompted the trick of appointing you a temporary or acting administrator. By showing your willingness to accept this appointment, you have of course become an instrument and an agent of a new, untenable arbitrariness.

You said there will be a vacancy. Nothing farther from the truth. Just as the treaties stipulate, Panama has recommended an administrator, Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, through the National Assembly, which has been legally recognized by the United States, because it was democratically elected by the Panamanian people. You, as candidate for this position, did not receive a single vote, neither from the government nor the opposition sectors. Keep in mind that I won the election by 42 votes to 0. Because you were not selected, because you are a Panamanian and a member of the process you helped shape, because you represent Panama in the PCC and are not a federal employee as you always argue, and because you were a member of the team that negotiatied the treaties, you are the last person who should accept an appointment that flagrantly violates these treaties.

You have said that a former chairman of the Board of Directors abused his position and changed everything related to the canal administration. Why did you as a Panamanian citizen and a representative of Panama not report this publicly? You seem to distort values to suit yourself. You have forgotten that you represent Panama at the PCC. Your duty as a Panamanian representative outweighs your regard for yourself as a federal employee of the U.S. Government, as you reiterated at the Legislative Assembly several times. Your problem is that you want to please and play for both sides. In our relations with the United States regarding the canal and compliance with the treaties, we all have to define ourselves and be Panamanians, nationalists, and honest to the homeland and ourselves.

Unfortunately, after 1903 and to the shame of the next generations, the U.S. Government learned that it was not essential, as in the past, to resort to a Frenchman to diminish the sovereign dignity of Panama.

The real problem now, Mr Deputy Administrator, is the meaning of your name in history if you lend yourself to this tremendous diminishing of Panama's sovereignty and dignity. No military power will be able to protect you from the epithets applicable to an action such as yours.

Tomas G. Altamirano Duque, publisher

Episcopal Conference Calls for Reconciliation

PA0212211789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Dec 89 pp A1, B8

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Episcopal Conference, CEP, on 3 December in Panama City]

[Text] Introduction:

1. Peace and blessings to all of you now that "Fatherland Month," during which we prayed to God for the present and future of our country, is behind us and we are beginning a new liturgical year with the Advent.

2. "Repent because the kingdom of heaven is near" (Mt 3,2), is a phrase that we will be hearing in the liturgy over the next few days. It invites us to make preparations to celebrate the great coming of God as Immanuel (God is with us) who comes to us every day and will come to us until the end "to judge the living and the dead."

Current Situation:

3. "Fatherland Month" was saddened and cast into mourning by several events:

a. On 1 September, the country's constitutional life and judicial system entered a phase of evident deterioration;

b. Human rights have been increasingly violated as shown to the international community by an OAS report (Report of the Human Rights Commission before the 19th period of regular OAS sessions, 13 November 1989);

c. Unemployment is rampant and in the public sector it has been worsened by the so-called "war laws," which bring about instability, uncertainty, and distrust;

d. The ranks of the poor continue to increase and the poor are growing poorer;

e. In view of the 3 October events [coup attempt], the country has seen the violence of persons being jailed, exiled, wounded, tortured, made to disappear, and killed with no respect for human rights.

f. As a result of all this, our people are saddened, frightened, and not exercising their freedom of speech and right of access to information. Meanwhile, violence looms over the entire country because of ever-increasing resentment, hatred, aggression, and distrust.

4. As a people and a nation, we face double aggression—internal aggression, as reflected in coercive measures that hurt human dignity such as those mentioned here, and foreign aggression, as reflected in foreign military actions on our own soil, provoking publicity on alleged U.S. plots to topple the Panamanian regime, and economic sanctions that the bishops have previously denounced as immoral, because they hurt our people's integrity and quality of life.

Once again, with added vigor, we condemn the unjust, immoral, and coercive economic measures against Panama, mainly those coming from the United States of America. In its attempt to restore democracy, that country is causing damage to the foundations of the economy that will last for years to come, and is gradually suffocating the Panamanian people, who are falling lower each day because of the double aggression they are enduring.

Neither aggression can justify itself on the other. The United States cannot justify this slow social repression against an entire nation, and the "provisional government" cannot delay the return of freedom and constitutionality by conditioning it to the lifting of foreign sanctions. Both sophisms prolong the people's agony.

5. It seems that the Lord is allowing us to face so much anguish and pain to move us to repent, reinforce our positive thinking, and ensure that we become a just and united people in the building of the Panama that we all want once the crisis has been overcome.

Call for Reconciliation:

6. As pastors, we have the duty to insist at all times on the need and urgency for dialogue and reconciliation. The country cannot continue to shed blood because of systematized murder and violence. We can no longer base our existence as a people and a nation on anti-Christian, and often, inhuman attitudes.

7. "Change your thoughts and feelings," the God in whom we believe continues to tell us. We must not and cannot continue this polarization process. This fatherland—which belongs to all of us—implores and demands the emergence of men and women willing to hold talks, forgive, and seek reconciliation. Our fatherland has the right to demand that each of its children depose selfishness and personal and group interests to fulfill a main task—the common good—while keeping in mind the most needy people in our Panamanian community.

A few days ago, we were all horrified by a massacre in the fraternal Republic of El Salvador. As pastors, today we cannot remain silent to what constitutes an extreme incitement to violence:

a. The "eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth" campaign, which is a veiled declaration of war among brothers promoted by the official media that has threatened to publish lists of people who would be eliminated and treated as "traitors" just because they are among the opposition and disagree with the political views of government parties;

b. The military process, arms buildup, and demonstrations involving various paramilitary groups that are sometimes confused with regular troops; and

c. The incredible statement made by the General State Council that "the magnitude of the people's anger and the calls for vengeance that would undoubtedly spread throughout the country if there was an attack against the life of the commander-in-chief and other patriotic leaders would make it very difficult for the government to guarantee the safety of opposition leaders." In saying this, the provisional government is refusing to fulfill a basic duty of all governments, that is, "protect the lives, honor, and property of nationals wherever they might be." (Article 17 of the national Constitution); it is establishing an intolerable notion that only those Panamanians who share the beliefs and positions of the government in power at a given time merit the rights and guarantees included in the Constitution.

8. Ruling gentlemen: The responsibility for actions triggered by your words will fall on you and your consciences with history and the judge of the living and dead as witnesses.

9. We call on all in the name of God: Let us acknowledge our weaknesses as individuals and institutions. Without demagoguery and extremism, Panama can and must follow the path of social justice and participative democracy with respect to human, individual, and social rights.

Conclusion:

10. The just God is also forgiving: He expects each and everyone of us, from our respective responsibility levels, to repent and sow the seeds of hope in our country. "I hope that you are listening to his voice today; Do not harden your heart.... (Psalm 94) "Now the God of hope fills you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." (Rom 15, 13)

3 December 1989, first Advent Sunday, Panama City

Jose Dimas Cedeno D., bishop of Santiago and CEP president; Marcos G. McGrath, archbishop of Panama; Jose Luis Lacunza, auxiliary bishop of Panama and CEP secretary general; Carlos Maria Ariz, bishop of Colon; Romulo Emiliani, apostolic vicar of Darien; Daniel E. Nunez, bishop of David and CEP vice president; Jose Maria Carrizo V., bishop of Chitre; Jose Agustin Ganuza, prelate bishop of Bocas del Toro; Carlos A. Lewis, assistant bishop of David; Marcos Zuluaga, emeritus bishop of Darien

Exiled Writer Appears on Clandestine Broadcast

PA0312204889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1840 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—An exiled Panamanian journalist and writer said today, through a clandestine television broadcast, that following the foiled coup on 3 October against General Manuel Antonio Noriega "there were executions and a great number of dead."

Writer Guillermo Sanchez Borbon said that a "military doctor" had told him that "he counted 40 dead," although Sanchez Borbon does not explain how he obtained the information from the doctor.

In a clandestine broadcast over unused television channel 9, calling itself "Patriotic Network for Broacasting the Truth," Sanchez Borbon also said that "all the G-2 (military intelligence)" took part in the military rebellion and that the military chief "did not know it."

For this exiled man, this coup attempt against the Panamanian general proves that "conspiracy is possible without Noriega finding out."

Sanchez Borbon, who has been exiled for 3 years, wrote a column in the opposition newspaper "LA PRENSA," closed by Panamanian authorities in February 1988.

The Defense Forces say that in the military rebellion 10 military men—all coup participants—were killed, 26—most loyal to Noriega—were injured, 37 were arrested, and 5 are fugitives.

Staff List of 'Little Headman of Terror' Noriega

PA0312023789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The following is Noriega's staff, which should be brought to the public's attention. Attention. Beware. The officers do not have commands or jurisdiction. The following is effective 1 December:

Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander; Luis Cordoba, Luis del Cid, Mario del Cid, Anibal Maylin, Juan Guizado, John Pimento, and Francisco Porras, company commanders.

Rafael Cedeno of G-2, second in command [after Noriega]; Chalo Gonzalez, Janon Diaz, German Gonzalez Pitti, Moises Cortizo, Benjamin Solis, Captain Gaitan.

Nivaldo Madrinan, third in command; DENI [National Department of Investigation] personnel and collaborators, Dignity Battalion, DIGEDECOM [General Directorate of Community Development], CODEPADI [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity], and labor unions.

The remaining colonels, lieutenant colonels, and other officers, despite their current status as heads of zones, are not in command of companies or detachments, nor will they be in command or have jurisdiction. They will only take orders from the little headman of terror, the little man Noriega.

What you do not know, according to this information, is that there are many problems inside the central headquarters. The report also states that the thefts and assaults perpetrated at banks in Panama City are led by the silent Captain Cortizo who, following orders from the criminal narcodictator Noriega, trains the Dignity Battalions' thugs for these purposes.

CONATO Releases Communique on 'Sole Union'

PA0312003089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Nov 89 p B6

[Communique issued by the National Council of Organized Workers, CONATO, in Panama City on 24 November]

[Text] CONATO's position concerning a sole union [Central Unitaria]:

CONATO has learned about efforts by several labor leaders and other organizations to create or establish a sole union that would join both public and private workers under one leadership.

This is not a new concept, as the idea of creating a sole union has been proposed by several of the country's labor organizations. The greatest efforts toward this noble objective were made by CONATO at various times following implementation of amendments to the labor code. Those efforts failed to materialize because of the seditious activities that began in our country in mid-1987, to which CONATO gave priority attention. CONATO feels that the main objective of any labor union should be to struggle to improve the workers' working and living conditions. Therefore, we feel that workers should participate in any unification effort, which should not be conducted behind their backs. Hence, we fail to understand why promoters of a sole union have not contacted CONATO organizations to express their ideas or to invite us to the meetings they have been holding to discuss this noble purpose.

Despite the above, we hereby present CONATO's concept of a sole union:

1. Grouping labor unions of the same economic or industrial activity in a single federation;

2. Unification of all state unions in a single federation;

3. The current Federation of Associations of Public Employees;

4. The sole union would be created in a congress attended by delegates who would be selected in proportion to the number of members in each national federation in the aforementioned groups.

It is clear that our concept of a sole union calls for interaction among all workers, whose participation is encouraged. In addition, all elite labor organizations, such as central organizations, confederations, federations, and national unions must be dissolved to form a sole union comprised of a number analogous national federations in the true sense of the word.

It is worthwhile mentioning that sole unions have been organized in Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, and most recently, Colombia, among other Latin American countries, as the result of working class necessity. For this reason, CONATO has adopted this organizational methodology, that is, organized from the bottom up.

The advantages for workers are enormous, both with regard to the trade union and economically, as we will see in the following summary.

Such an organization would enable workers to tackle the economic problems in their respective fields together and to consider all their aspects, including regional differences. In addition, they would be able to negotiate a single collective working convention with the corresponding employer. Concerning the latter, we wish to point out that employers are indeed organized according to their industrial or economic activities, for instance, the Panamanian Chamber of Construction [CAPAC], the National Chamber of Graphic Arts, and so on.

Such an organization would preserve the legal status of each labor union, the basis for the federation, and prevent and terminate the existence of several labor unions in the same corporation, thus ending cannibalism and the undermining activities of some labor union members.

By encouraging the unity of all labor unions involved in a specific economic activity, and when a single collective work convention is negotiated, we can avoid disloyal competition and the virtual closing down of several enterprises, an occurrence caused by the salaries that some better organized labor unions pay their members in contrast to those paid by other unions in enterprises engaged in a similar activity. Salary and other labor benefits are the result of fixed production costs; thus, the higher the production costs, the higher the cost of the product. As a result, those unions more successful in improving their members' working conditions will be defeated by less powerful unions in similar enterprises, because the latter will be able to negotiate with the employer on less demanding terms. Consequently, this particular employer can sell the product at a lower price. Regarding competition, this entails the bankruptcy of the enterprise that is home to the apparently stronger union.

Although we could be in error, particularly because the advocates of a sole union have not invited CONATO, we think this group intends to create a new elite similar to that of the defunct People's Unity Front [FUP], in which delegates will not be chosen in plenums of congresses of the corresponding unions or federations. They will force the improper denomination of a sole union. In addition, there will be no organic or structural integration because each organization will keep its presumed autonomy to heed or reject the sole union accords, as happened in FUP, the paternity of which was claimed by political parties.

If this is worrisome, the haste to create this elite, the unclarified purpose of this haste, and the participation both of persons with double representation and nameless organizations will be even more worrisome. The attempt is to impose a leadership elite on Panamanian workers through undebated decrees. Far from promoting unity in the people's domestic front, such actions would weaken this front at a time when such a stance verges on treason. Like it or not, the empire has not intervened because it failed to make Panamanians confront each other. However, the attempt to create this elite with fascist methods will surely lead to such a confrontation. We are aware that CONATO organizations, the members of which belong to the private sector, are encountering all kinds of difficulties. These difficulties, however, started with the labor code amendments, the laws on industry and agriculture that the government imposed on instructions from the United States and its imperialist agents, the World Bank and the IMF, and later the treason and sedition of a former high-ranking member of the Panama Defense Forces and other government officials, as well as all the businessmen favored by the labor code amendments.

The difficulties that more than 100,000 CONATO members have encountered are aggravated by the imperialist aggression that truly chastises the private sector workers and the powerlessness of a government that has not known or has been unable to implement measures to check the galloping deterioration of this sector. The banking system continues to be restricted, committing economic and financial suicide. Fearfully and slowly, the banking system seeks new financial and economic horizons outside the empire's influence. The situation of the unions, however, is not a breeding ground where new elite groups can be imposed on it—groups whose intentions are not yet clear—much less be forced to accept new labor code amendments to accomodate political interests.

Finally, we are convening the national council of CONATO delegates and the union leaders to a meeting to discuss the subjects that have been presented. The meeting will be held at 1300 on 2 December at the office beside CONATO, upstairs from the Lottery Agency in Perejil. This represents the second and third calls.

[dated] 24 November 1989, Panama City

[Signed] Francisco Sanchez Mimbela, coordinator for November, CONATO's Collegiate Body

Minister Announces Schedule for Paying Salaries

PA0312183389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL
in Spanish 3 Dec 89 pp 1A, 10A

[Communique issued by Finance and Treasury Minister Dr Orville K. Goodin on 3 December in Panama City]

[Text] As the citizens know, the current U.S. strategy of aggression against Panama seeks a deterioration of the national government's financial solvency to prevent it from fulfilling social responsibilities in the fields of health, education, housing, electricity, and so on, and to make it impossible for the government to make full and timely payments to the more than 145,000 Panamanians who bear the burden of supporting their families by serving the state.

In addition to unjust and illegal coercive measures, a disinformation campaign against our country, and destabilization of our institutions, the U.S. Government is banning Panamanian-flagged ships from docking in U.S. ports. This would reduce our national government's fiscal revenues by $45 million. Such revenues were short of $500 million, compared to $1.1 billion in 1987.

The U.S. Government's policy seeks to create conditions to force the national government to implement mass firings of public servants. This measure has never been contemplated because the government wants to preserve the source of income for hundreds of thousands of Panamanians.

In a responsible manner and as a temporary measure to face the current financial situation, the national government announces the following schedule for salary payments for the rest of the year and a number of additional measures to help those who earn the lowest salaries.

1. Payment of salaries for last 2 weeks in November:

Salaries up to $400 will be paid on 7 December

Salaries between $401 and $750 will be paid on 14 December

Salaries $751 and above will be paid on 15 December

2. Payment of salaries for the first 2 weeks in December:

On 22 December a single payment of $60 will be issued

On 29 December the full balance will be paid

3. Payment of salaries for the last 2 weeks in December:

Salaries up to $400 will be paid on 12 January

Salaries between $401 and $750 will be paid 15 January

Salaries above $751 will be paid on 16 January

4. For the second pay period of December, employees earning salaries under $300 per month will receive a bag of free food worth $18.

5. For that same period, all employees earning between $301 and $750 per month, may if they wish, buy the same bag containing food at $12, payable via direct withholdings in four pay periods beginning in March 1990.

6. In December, telephone service disconnections will be suspended provided that the amount owed during the normal cutoff period is under $50. Electricity and potable water disconnections will also be suspended provided that the amount owed is under $15 and $16 per month, respectively, during the normal cutoff period.

7. Evictions resulting from lack of payment will be suspended until 15 January 1990.

The national government reaffirms its commitment to keep citizens informed about developments in the country's economic situation and urges nationalist segments of the population to keep their patriotic sentiments alive in defense of national integrity, sovereignty, and dignity.

Dr Orville K. Goodin

Finance and Treasury Minister

Panama City, 3 December 1990

Chamber of Commerce President Views Economy

PA0212125589 Panama City Telemetro Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Alfredo Maduro, president of the Panama Chamber of Commerce, said today that the country's economy in the most recent quarter behaved the same as in the year's first half.

[Begin recording] [Maduro] I wish to point out that the economy's behavior in the third quarter this year was very similar to what private enterprise had anticipated, which was that their sales would be approximately 4.5 percent lower than in the previous quarter. The results have confirmed that the sales reduction was slightly greater than anticipated. Anyway, the sector's behavior is very similar to that of the same period in 1988. In other words, the fact that sales are approximately 20 percent lower than those in 1987 now seems to be normal. The figures have continued to dip slightly, as compared to those of 1988.

[Reporter] Is there any tendency toward improvement?

[Maduro] No, everything indicates that the overall microresults will be negative. As for the country's macroeconomy, studies indicate a GNP reduction of approximately 7 percent as compared with the 1988 figures. If we compare this with the 1987 results, this represents a GNP reduction of approximately 24 percent. [end recording]

Bolivia

Country Holds Municipal Elections 3 December

President Urges Voter Turnout

PY0212233489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1808 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] La Paz, 2 Dec (EFE)—Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora today urged his compatriots to overcome apathy and to participate in the municipal elections that will be held on 3 December. These elections will be held under a state of siege and charges of fraud.

Bolivians will elect 2,776 municipal authorities at the city and provincial level in 9 Bolivian departments tomorrow, and authorities have explained that 40 percent of the 1.8 million voters may abstain from voting.

Paz Zamora expressed his concern over the little importance Bolivians are according this election. He said: "We are not granting sufficient importance to these municipal elections, which are the basis of Bolivian political and economic activities." Paz Zamora added: "I hope Bolivian democracy will be strengthened on 3 December."

According to experts, the prevailing apathy is due to a saturation of political propaganda; deterioration of parties; exhaustion from the intense political campaign the preceded the general elections held in May; and the electoral court's loss of prestige in view of the irregularities that occurred during the vote count in the general elections.

In addition, the former leader of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) has charged that the [word indistinct] has staged a great electoral fraud, implemented the state of siege, and [words indistinct] several sectors demand the lifting of the measure of exception.

They also demand the release of six leaders of the La Paz Teachers Union who were arrested on 15 November for promoting a strike to demand [words indistinct] better salaries.

In an open letter to the Bolivian people, 2,000 politicians, intellectuals, artists, and personalities request that the government "repeal the state of siege in compliance with the Constitution, while upholding human rights and individual freedoms and rights." The note adds that the state of siege that was implemented on 15 November to end the hunger strike is still in force today "to cover up irregularities in the municipal elections."

The main opposition parties participating in the election yesterday established a committee for the defense of the popular vote to "avoid any manipulation in the vote-counting process, the nullification of voting tables, and other negative events that occurred in the general elections on 7 May."

The strongest election dispute will be centered in La Paz, the largest Bolivian municipality, where ruling party candidate and former La Paz Mayor Ronald MacLean will contend with populist candidate Carlos Palanque, owner of a radio and television station.

Praises Peaceful Polling

PY0312195089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1635 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] La Paz, 3 Dec (EFE)—After voting in a downtown La Paz school today, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora praised the climate of peace in which the municipal election is being held.

The president compared the calm prevailing during the election—which is being held under the state of siege—with the increasing conflict between the guerrillas and the government in El Salvador.

"They are shooting at each other there while we are voting here," the president said.

The state of siege was decreed on 15 November after police clashed with students demonstrating in support of striking teachers, some of whom were on hunger strike.

According to Paz, the state of siege has not affected the election; on the contrary "it has helped it."

The state of siege "has helped to calm things down and has allowed us to come to vote with greater security," the president said.

"There is not a single report among all those I have received saying that the state of siege has hurt the electoral process," Paz Zamora stressed. The president played down the importance of the high rate of absenteeism.

Paz said that in consolidated democracies such as Colombia and the United States the index of participation is of 30 and 50 percent respectively.

"Let us not ask of Bolivia more than it can give," Paz Zamora said.

Leftist Leading in La Paz

PY0412015089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0230 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] According to the data we have at hand, with 20 percent of the votes counted, Ronald MacLean of the ADN-MIR [Nationalist Democratic Action-Movement of the Revolutionary Left] has received 44 percent of the votes, while Condepa [Conscience of the Fatherland], his closest challenger, has received 27 percent of the votes. The MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] has received 15.5 percent. No other political party has 10 percent, and so we are not mentioning them now.

In the town of El Alto, Condepa is leading with 60 percent of the votes, while the ADN-MIR coalition has received 11 percent. These are unofficial results.

IU Projected Winner in Sucre

PY0412030689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0215 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] La Paz, 3 Dec (EFE)—According to an unofficial final vote count in Sucre, the United Left [IU] coalition has won the municipal elections in Sucre, in central part of Bolivia. The municipal elections were held today throughout the country.

Bolivian Television Channel 2 has reported that the leftist candidate, journalist Omar Montalvo, will almost assuredly become the new mayor of Sucre, as his coalition obtained 57.3 percent of the valid votes.

The government coalition made up of the rightist Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) is in second place with 16.5 percent of the votes, while Nationalist Revolutionary Movement is in third place with 10.3 percent of the votes cast in the Sucre municipal elections.

According to the same data, the number of people who failed to cast their votes is [number indistinct] percent in Sucre.

In La Paz, the site of the government and congress, with almost 50 percent of the votes counted, Ronald MacLean, of the government coalition, has won 40.7 percent of the votes, followed closely by radio and television journalist Carlos Palenque, who has won 35.3 percent of the votes. This is according to data released by Television Channel 2.

Communique Issued on Operation at Brazil Border

PY0312020589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] La Paz, 2 Dec (EFE)—The Bolivian Government reported today that the military operation carried out a few hours ago on the Brazilian-Bolivian border to stop the illegal entrance of foreigners into Bolivian territory to plunder forest resources will not affect diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In a communique issued by the Information Ministry, the government notes that the military operation on the Rio Verde, a river on the border with Brazil, was carried out to stop the entrance of foreigners who were illegally exploiting lumber. The communique added that this illegal exploitation constitutes "a violation of Bolivian sovereignty and causes irreversible damage to regional ecology."

The communique states: "This military action cannot be interpreted as an international incident under any circumnstances. Moreover, it does not affect the excellent level of Bolivian-Brazilian relations since this a strictly domestic matter."

On 1 December, the Armed Forces used explosives to blow up a bridge that had been built over 1 year ago over the Rio Verde River. The Rio Verde is located in the Noel Kempff Mercado Park in Santa Cruz Department, over 1,000 km southeast of La Paz. According to the authorities' investigations, the bridge had been built to smuggle Bolivian lumber into Brazilian territory.

Troops from the "Warnes" Regiment and from the 8th Army Division in Santa Cruz were flown to the Rio Verde River area. They used dynamite to destroy the bridge. However, the troops were unable to arrest any Brazilian citizens or to seize equipment that, according to reports supplied by ecological organizations, was being used to cut down lumber.

Operations against this "peaceful invasion" by Brazilian citizens were supposed to be carried out 3 months ago, but those organizations entrusted with territorial security did not adopt any measures until Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora personally headed the operation.

According to government authorities, the lumber smugglers, who presumably have Bolivian partners, were able to escape and to bring their equipment along with them.

During a visit to Santa Cruz on 30 November, Paz Zamora ordered the military operation after warning: "From now on, those who violate Bolivian territory will be punished."

Jose Luis Paredes, deputy minister of migration [title as received], said that there are only two Bolivian border control posts in the Santa Cruz Department region that borders with Brazil and that, due to a lack of resources, more border control posts cannot be established.

Colombian Drug Trafficker Rendon Escapes Jail

PY0112212189 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The Social Defense secretariat has confirmed that Colombian drug trafficker Libardo Rendon has escaped from jail. He was being detained by the UMOPAR [Mobile Unit for Rural Areas] in Chimore.

Rendon told the agents that his name was William Pereira and escaped on 15 November. His guards will be interrogated to find out who is responsible for his escape.

The Social Defense secretariat has reported that Carlos Lisboa Melgar and Hernan Coimbra, two drug traffickers who were arrested recently, are the most important drug traffickers in the area and that their laboratories, which processed 4,000 grams [as heard] of cocaine per month, were destroyed.

Decree on Antinarcotics Organizations Passed

PY0212204989 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 23 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] The national unity government has once again demonstrated its determination to face the illegal use and trafficking of drugs. Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde said measures will be adopted in the fields of interdiction, alternative development, and prevention.

The government yesterday approved Supreme Decree No 22373, which establishes regulations for Chapter VI of Law No 1008 on Special Regulations for Coca and Controlled Substances. These regulations will strengthen the actions carried out by the National Council against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking (CONALID).

The decree establishes that that the Undersecretariats of Alternative Development and Social Defense, which were dependent on the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Campesino Affairs (MACA) and the Interior Ministry, respectively, and the prevention organization, which will be promoted to the rank of undersecretariat, will now depend on the CONALID.

The foreign minister said that these measures are being adopted within the framework of the national policy on the antinarcotic struggle. This is why the government will have to coordinate its future actions to make its operations more effective.

Minister Carlos Iturralde pointed out that, with the approval of this decree, the National Executive Directorate will be created, which will depend directly on CONALID. This directorate's goal is to support the technical-administrative activities of the Permanent Council of Coordination.

The minister said that the operational arrangements in which the undersecretariats take part will be planned, supervised, and coordinated. He added that the options and alternatives of the international agreements and contracts will be discussed with national entities in coordination with the Permanent Council.

The foreign minister, together with MACA Minister Mauro Bertero, Interior, Migration and Justice Minister Guillermo Capobianco, and the defense minister, has announced that CONALID will organize a series of preliminary meetings to prepare for the "summit meeting" to be held by the Bolivian, U.S., Peruvian, and Colombian presidents in our country in February.

Central Bank Freely Disposable Reserves Reported

PY0212181089 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Nov 89 p 1

[Summary] The Central Bank has reported that on 16 November its freely disposable foreign reserves stood at $242.7 million. Those reserves include credits recently granted to Bolivia, primarily by Japan.

UN Ambassador Named Head of Group of 77 Meeting

PY0112144889 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Summary] Hugo Navajas Mogro, Bolivian ambassador to the United Nations, has been appointed president of the next Group of 77 Meeting that will take place in Moscow, USSR, in 1990. The Bolivian Foreign Ministry has reported that, as president of the group, Bolivia intends to conduct successful negotiations on matters of international trade and North-South talks.

Castro Offers To Mediate Bolivia-Chile Dispute

PY0212175489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0537 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] La Paz, 1 Dec (EFE)—Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora today learned that Cuban President Fidel Castro has offered to facilitate a possible rapprochement between Bolivia and Chile to solve Bolivia's landlocked situation if the next democratic Chilean Government is leftist.

President Paz Zamora learned about Castro's offer from Bolivian Colonel Jose Rivera Smith, who met with the Cuban president during a visit to Havana last week with a delegation of 58 students from the National War College.

Rivera Smith, who in 1967 fought against the guerrilla group headed by Ernesto "Che" Guevara, said that Castro voiced his solidarity with the Bolivian maritime cause and offered to facilitate a rapprochement with Chile, as long as a leftist candidate wins the upcoming Chilean elections, scheduled for 14 December.

Rivera said that Castro announced that he will support all efforts made by the Bolivian Government in that direction.

President Paz Zamora noted that the Cuban Government has consistently backed the Bolivian claim for an outlet to the sea at all international forums.

Bolivia lost its sovereign outlet to the Pacific after being defeated, together with Peru, by Chile (1879-83).

FRG To Grant $70 Million in Assistance

PY0212211989 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 25 Nov 89 p 7

[Excerpt] In its budget for 1989-1990, the FRG Government has assigned 200 million Deutsche marks, equivalent to $70 million, to be granted to Bolivia for technical and financial assistance. This was reported by FRG Economic Cooperation Minister Jurgen Warnke in a news conference yesterday at the Versailles Room of the La Paz Hotel.

Bolivian officials will discuss the projects and programs in which this money will be used in meetings to be held with the members of the FRG delegation that will arrive in La Paz next week. [passage omitted]

Brazil

November Inflation Rate Hits Record High

PY0112235889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Summary] The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics on 1 December reported that the inflation rate reached an all-time record of 41.42 percent in November.

* Alarmism Over Internal Debt Said Unjustified

90ET0028B Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] The internal debt problem has been polarizing the attention of economic agents, with many experts claiming it to be the most dramatic legacy that the current government will leave to its successor. Nevertheless, in its latest issue, the magazine CONJUNTURA ECONOMICA has published an editorial (Letter From IBRE [Brazilian Institute of Economic Research]) containing a considerably less pessimistic view, although those responsible for the publication give a reminder that this article "does not necessarily express the unanimous opinion of the magazine's editorial board nor of every economist on the staff, in particular." Insofar as we are concerned, we feel that it is not fitting to attach alarmism to the topic under discussion at this critical time for our economy. The CONJUNTURA ECONOMICA editorial leads to some considerations tending to prove that the panic that some are trying to create is far from justified.

It should be acknowledged that Complementary Law No 12 of 8 November 1971, whereby the service on the National Treasury's debt is not to be included in the budget of the Union, changed what the Letter From IBRE calls a "Monetary Constitution," which permitted "the financing of the fiscal deficit to be achieved by way of bonds or currency, without distinction."

It should be noted that, at present, this service is included in the budget, and that there are limits on bond issues (calling for the roll-over of the debt and its service, to be sure). But at the present time the internal debt is not aimed only at financing the deficit, but also at curbing monetary expansion which, during this phase of inflation, requires an increasingly burdensome cost.

The federal internal debt, in the public's hands for many years, has not increased greatly. According to data from the Finance Ministry, from 1972 to 1984 it varied between a minimum of 4.21 percent of the GDP to a maximum of 7.55 percent. Not until 1985 did it exceed 10 percent, standing at its highest level in July 1989: 13.68 percent. It should rise during the next few months, but it will certainly not exceed 15 percent by the year's end.

In absolute terms, this amount is not dramatic, considering the fact that, in the orthodox Federal Republic of Germany, it exceeds 40 percent, totals nearly 60 percent in the United States, exceeds 70 percent in Japan, and is over 110 percent in Italy. It is true that such comparisons are not met with great support, first, because they include the entire internal debt, not just that of the central government, but, in particular, because this is not an indexed debt and has a profile quite different from that of Brazil, where at least 80 percent of the debt changes hands every day.

We think that the mistake lies in considering overnight operations as an application with bonds. In fact, we are faced with an alternative currency, as the Letter From IBRE aptly terms it.

The internal debt should be analyzed as if it were a primary currency that would increase on a monetary base, subject to the credit multiplier that converts this base into the so-called "money supply" (money in the public's possession and in demand deposits). By July, we shall have attained a money supply representing 207.024 billion new cruzados, that is, 25.3 percent of the GDP: certainly a high percentage, but not a dramatic one. We must also admit that not all the internal debt should be converted into currency, and that it will be incumbent on the monetary authorities to reduce that money supply through a compulsory collection on demand deposits, which would prove quite profitable at the outset. The monetization of the internal debt would not be dramatic, and would result in the conversion of demand deposits, which do not draw interest, into government bonds, which currently demand high interest, still actually being a money supply.

Nevertheless, this operation would be acceptable only in the context of an economy in which there would no longer be a public deficit requiring financing through bonds, except when financing profitable public investments was involved. We don't consider this a dream. To achieve it, a political will under pressure from the entire community would suffice. Hence, the alarmism that has been surrounding the internal debt problem, which will only endure if we persist in our current behavior, is not justified.

* Nazare on Inability To Make Bomb for 10 Years

90ET0028A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Oct 89 p 27

[Text] Brasilia—Last week nuclear physicist Rex Nazare Alves, chairman of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN), gave assurance that Brazil and Germany would maintain the agreement signed in 1975, which will expire in 1990, with a new agreement valid for another 5 years. According to Nazare, there are no official or real reasons for interrupting it. He claims that the recent meetings between the two countries (during August in Brazil and September in Vienna) were sufficient to achieve the maintenance of the agreement for the construction of Angra II and III.

The CNEN chairman refuted the charge made by the German magazine, DER SPIEGEL, that Brazil's autonomous program was being directed toward military goals, and that the terms on safeguards signed by the two countries with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were not being fulfilled. Nazare claims that Brazil has always met its obligations in the tripartite safeguards agreement. He maintains: "The international agency has never mentioned failure to fulfill our responsibilities in its reports and analyses." He claimed that everything has been checked by the board of governors comprised of the countries using nuclear energy.

In an exclusive interview with ESTADO, Rex Nazare said that charges such as that made by the German magazine are common, and are aimed at hampering the development of this type of energy in Third World countries such as Brazil. In his view, under normal operating conditions nuclear energy is the type causing the least impact on the environment, added to the fact that it does not contribute to the greenhouse effect. The physicist notes that, for this reason, there is a worldwide movement to limit its use exclusively to industrialized countries.

Statistics

In Nazare's estimation, "They are trying to conceal the fact that 57 percent of the greenhouse effect occurrences originate from electric power generation, and that there are 434 nuclear units operating in the world generating that power, and another 100 under construction, creating an incalculable market for equipment and fuels." According to data submitted by the IAEA (headquartered in Vienna) last month, the United States is constructing another 5 nuclear units, when it already has 110 power plants. In the other countries, the situation is as follows: 14 plants under construction and 38 operating; 9 in France, besides the 55 existing ones; 18 in Canada, which is already operating 4; 6 in Germany, plus the 5 current ones; and 26 in the Soviet Union, which currently has 56 plants in operation.

As for the construction of a bomb within 2 years, based on the opinion of U.S. scientists William Higginbotham and David Albright (in a claim made to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO), the CNEN chairman says that Brazil lacks the necessary money and technology. He comments: "Our programs are directed toward and concentrated on the peaceful use of nuclear energy." According to Nazare, the recent past use of this technology in the United States to manufacture bombs enabled the two scientists to make erroneous interpretations. He maintains that the Brazilian Constitution bans the manufacture of nuclear weapons, in addition to the fact that the country is not vying for supremacy with anyone, much less suffering the threat of a military invasion by a militarily nuclear nation.

He observes ironically: "If there were a decision on the part of the Brazilian people to make the bomb, we would require at least 10 years for laboratory work alone; 2 or 3 years would be a big kick, without direction."

---

* Agricultural Accord With Iran Nears Conclusion

90ET0028C Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] Representatives from Iran are in Brazil arranging final details to close an agreement for the purchase of $500 million worth of agricultural machinery and equipment intended for sugar cane growing in Kurdistan Province, in the country's northwestern region near the Iraqi border. In return, Brazil will have to import the equivalent number of dollars worth of Iranian oil at the international market price. The accord is associated with the extensive project to develop sugar cane growing in Iran, in which Brazilian business firms will also participate with transfers of technology. This information was provided by the Iranian vice minister of agriculture, Tabataba'i, and the president of IAT (Foreign Trade Company), Jacques Eluf.

On Thursday Vice Minister Tabataba'i and Deputy Musavi, from Kurdistan, met in Brasilia with the minister of agriculture, Iris Rezende, and the secretary general of finance, Paulo Cesar Ximenes, to establish methods for expanding the cooperation between the two countries, as Tabataba'i announced. Yesterday the Iranian vice minister traveled to Rio de Janeiro, where he will decide, with Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Company], on the Brazilian commitment to import oil from Iran.

According to ELuf, contacts will be made with the Brazilian firms Dedini, Zanini, Santal, AKZ Turbines, Renk Zanini, and others: all manufacturers of agricultural machinery and equipment. A month ago, a contract for tractor sales was signed with Maxion, amounting to $5 million. In addition, the 28 agroindustry technicians in the Iranian mission will initiate contacts with Caterpillar during the next few days, for the transfer of technology in the sugar cane growing area. IAT formed joint ventures with two Brazilian consulting and engineering firms: VEP, for the sugar sector, and Jaako Poiry, for the paper and cellulose sector.

With foreign technology and equipment for the modernization of sugar cane growing, the Iranian Government intends to produce 700,000 tons of sugar annually and, with the bagasse, 300,000 tons per year of paper and cellulose, as well as 700,000 tons of livestock feed annually, according to Eluf and Tabataba'i. Iran's current sugar production amounts to 750,000 tons per year, whereas the annual demand ranges from 1.25 million to 1.35 million tons. The vice minister emphasizes that, for this reason, the government is attempting to eliminate dependence on imported products. Iran's goals also include self-sufficiency in the production of wood veneers (another 100,000 tons per year) and of animal proteins (an additional 20,000 tons per year).

According to Eluf, since 1982 Iran has imported nearly $3 billion worth of agricultural equipment, automobile parts, machine tools, and paper and cellulose (the requirement for oil importing has existed for 3 years). To attain its goals in the agricultural area alone, the country must purchase an additional $1.5 to $2 billion worth of equipment. Hence, Brazil, Germany, Japan, France, Australia, and India are in the bidding competition for the modernization and reconstruction of Iran.

Nevertheless, Eluf and Tabataba'i claim that Brazil's chances are good: At the beginning of this decade IAT started studying possibilities of doing business in Iran, and has already brought over 20 missions to Brazil. According to Eluf, the idea arose during the seminar held at Davos, Switzerland, in 1982. IAT serves as an intermediary between the Brazilian companies and the government of Iran, where it has even established a subsidiary.

In Tabataba'i's opinion, upon the country's reconstruction after 8 years of war with Iraq, foreign business is tending to heat up. This year, the Iranian Parliament approved the Sugar Cane Development Fund, allocating between $5.5 billion and $6 billion for plantation projects during the 5-year period 1990-95.

Chile

Pinochet Will Leave 'If The People Ask'

PY0112235389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] During an address to a large crowd of women who were celebrating Woman's Day at the FISA [Santiago Industrial Fair] grounds in Cerrillos Park, President Augusto Pinochet said that if the people ask him to leave he will do so.

Mrs Pinochet was also at the ceremony during which, in a lively speech, the president paid homage to the women for their support for him during the past years. Recalling the past, he assessed the last 16 years.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Now that I am about to fulfill my mission...[crowd shouts: "No, no"] do not forget that I am a soldier, and if the people ask me to leave I will do so. [crowd shouts: "No"] [end recording]

He then noted the role played by everyone in the reconstruction of Chile which, unfortunately, alien forces managed to paralyze and stop from growing.

Pinochet then referred to the 5 October 1988 plebiscite, stating:

[Begin Pinochet recording] They twisted our arms because others got together and forced the people to vote no [as heard]. In a few years time, not long from now, they will be clamoring for the return of a military government. [applause]

Chile's future lies in your hands. During meetings with various distinguished Chilean women, I have repeatedly told you to talk to your children—teach them about freedom, about the law—but you do not believe me. I have told you that Marxism does not sleep and that the Marxist-Leninist scourge is latent. What I foresaw has happened. All that is left now is unity, unity, and more unity to struggle for Chile. Cooperate when necessary for the grandeur of Chile and the ability to fulfill all our aspirations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Aylwin on Pinochet's Permanence as Army Commander

PY0112225389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1609 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Santiago, 30 Nov (EFE)—Opposition presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin asserted that he hopes to personally discuss with President General Augusto Pinochet the latter's permanence as commander in chief of the Army.

During a television interview last night, Aylwin noted that he did not think it would be dangerous for Pinochet to remain at the head of the Army. According to the Constitution, Pinochet may remain in this post until 1998.

The opposition candidate, whom the polls mention as the probable winner of the 14 December presidential elections, said that "the Constitution lists the specific duties of the Armed Forces and states that they must be subordinated to the president of the Republic."

Aylwin also referred to the Communist Party [PCCh] and said that he was in favor of its legalization.

Aylwin said that "I have been an adversary of the PCCh, but I have always maintained that the proscription of parties is antidemocratic and does not contribute to democracy." He added that he wants the PCCh to participate in the country's democratic life "and this entails that it must also respect the democratic rules."

Moreover, Aylwin referred to the changes taking place in Eastern Europe by saying this process strengthens democracy and shows that totalitarianism is obsolete.

The opposition candidate said that if he were elected president, it would "be positive" to receive USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev, like any other world leader.

However, Aylwin excluded Cuban President Fidel Castro because "he has interfered in other countries and has not undertaken the renewal process that perestroyka entails."

Poll Indicates Landslide Victory for Aylwin

PY0112223389 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The outcome of a poll by the Center for Contemporary Reality Studies, CERC, indicates that there will not be a runoff election and that Patricio Aylwin Azocar will be elected as the new president of the nation in December.

Here is a report by Mauricio Vargas:

[Begin Vargas recording] If the presidential elections were held next Sunday, Patricio Aylwin Azocar would be the next Chilean president according to the outcome of the latest CERC poll.

The poll is based on 98.2 [as heard] percent of the country's total population. Some 2,400 people from between Arica and Chiloe were polled. The CERC pointed out that 56.4 percent of the electorate supports the coalition candidate, 27.5 percent supports Hernan Buchi, and 14.1 percent supports Francisco Javier Errazuriz. Two percent of the population will not vote or will vote in blank. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Foreign Minister on UN Human Rights Resolution

PY0112174089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has described the United Nations acknowledgment of an improved human rights situation in our country as the end of the conspiracy to ignore Chilean reality.

The resolution was approved on 29 November by the Third Commission of the UN General Assembly. The resolution received 80 votes of approval, 50 abstentions, and 2 votes of disapproval, including that of Chile.

The foreign minister said that our country voted against the resolution because some interventionist concepts are still found in the resolution.

[Begin Errazuriz recording] What we have termed the conspiracy to ignore objective Chilean reality is being broken.

However, some interventionist concepts—which are unacceptable to us, especially the concept of criticizing us for not cooperating with observer Volio—are still found in this resolution.

We have been emphatic on this issue. Our idea is to cooperate with the United Nations by following the general procedures. [end recording]

This new attitude of the United Nations toward Chile, the minister said, is linked to the reality that began in Chile with the 5 October plebiscite and has continued until today. During this period, all Chile has made progress in human rights and other matters.

Ten-Month Trade Balance Surplus Reported

PY0412120689 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Nov pp A-1, A-12

[Summary] The Central Bank reported that the annual accumulated trade balance surplus as of 30 October amounts to $1,425,500,000, the difference between $6,758,500,000 worth of exports and $5,333,100,000 worth of imports. This 10-month surplus is 13.4 percent lower than last year's surplus over the same period.

New Nuclear Reactor Installed in Lo Aguirre

PY0112170289 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Nov 89 p B1

[Text] The president of the Republic, Augusto Pinochet, visited the "Lo Aguirre" Nuclear Research Center on 21 November. There the head of state, along with Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal and Economy Minister Pedro Larrondo, gained insight into the operation of the experimental nuclear reactor and the various systems associated with it.

This reactor—the second one installed in our country—became operational without foreign advisers, and the state did not appropriate any special financial resources for it. In its initial stage, the reactor will operate with fuels of low enrichment.

This technological achievement—involving advanced technology—has aroused strong interest among the nuclear officials of some countries—such as the presidents of the nuclear commissions of Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, and Iraq—who will visit the facilities in the near future.

The "Lo Aguirre" Nuclear Research Center reactor and its systems will be oriented to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, with the goal of supporting the country's socioeconomic development. It was also reported that this reactor, as well as the one in "La Reina," will be available to universities and to scientific and technical organizations who want to conduct research work with the National Nuclear Energy Commission professionals.

Navy Commander's Office To Move to Valparaiso

PY0212005889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Vice Admiral Fernando Navajas Irigoyen, commander of the 1st Naval Zone, has confirmed that the offices of the Navy commander in chief will be transferred to Valparaiso in mid-January 1990. Vice Admiral Navajas also announced the possibility of the Hector Quemada Airport in Vina del Mar being used for commercial flights.

Regarding the arrangements for the transference of the Navy commander's office, Navajas said that the 1st Naval Zone has established its new offices and some other departments have been moved to other buildings. He said that the third and fourth floors are being arranged to house the offices of the Navy chief of staff and the Navy commander. [passage omitted]

Colombia

President Barco Addresses Nation on Extradition

PA0212043089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0237 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Address to the nation by President Virgilio Barco—live]

[Text] Fellow patriots, I am addressing the nation today to explain the government's position concerning the issue of extradition, which was the subject of a very intense debate last night at the Chamber of Representatives' First Commission.

A proposal was presented to the effect that in the extraordinary referendum scheduled for 21 January—

which is contemplated in the constitutional reform that is currently in its final stages—an additional question be included with regard to whether or not you, the Colombian people, want Colombian criminals to be extradited.

This question would join four other issues that had already been approved for submission to popular consultation on 21 January. On behalf of the national government, the government minister immediately expressed the disadvantages of approving that proposal.

I have consulted with Former Presidents Alberto Lleras, Carlos Lleras Restrepo, Alfonso Lopez, and Julio Cesar Turbay about including the extradition issue in the referendum, and they feel that with the current public order situation—especially when the government has been dealing successfully with the struggle against drug trafficking—it would be disadvantageous to use the referendum to decide on extradition.

The country must not deceive itself as to where we would be headed if we held a referendum on the issue of extradition, and as to the fatal consequences of such an action on the country's morale and on democracy's survival.

Initially, I am not talking about extraditing Colombian criminals for them to stand trial in other countries, but of extraditing drug traffickers who have committed crimes abroad. Extradition is not punishment for society because it refers only to drug traffickers. Neither is it an affront to sovereignty, as some people have tried to portray it.

Extradition has been dealt with in Colombian international treaties. The direction of international policy lies within the exclusive realm of the Presidency of the Republic, according to the Constitution. Congress cannot take the initiative of abolishing public extradition treaties by resorting to legislative or constituent provisions. This is clear in light of Colombian public law, and it is imperative according to the Vienna Convention, which Colombia recently approved. According to this convention, the extradition treaty will prevail over internal provisions. In other words, the treaties that Colombia has signed with regard to extradition cannot be disregarded through internal legislation. This can only be done through diplomatic efforts such as denouncing the treaties and directly informing the counterpart.

For 100 years Colombian law has authorized the extradition of criminals. I repeat, 100 years—since 1888—and only now, when extradition is applied to drug traffickers, are there objections to its alleged violations of sovereignty. Practically all the countries of the world, with very few exception, have and apply treaties to extradite terrorists or whomever commits crimes against humanity, such as drug trafficking.

Over the past 10 years, no more than 30 people have been extradited to several countries that requested the extraditions and complied with the necessary laws. Therefore, extradition is not a general threat against all Colombians. It only affects those who have committed the crime of drug trafficking abroad. Secondly, some people have said that extradition has created violence and, therefore, with its elimination, violence would disappear. Neither is true.

The violence perpetrated by drug traffickers had been suffered prior to the 1979 extradition treaty. After the treaty went into effect, hundreds of Colombians were murdered, including Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. In December 1986, a Supreme Court decision left the extradition treaty inapplicable. In other words, after this, while extradition was inapplicable, Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos was slain, Bogota Mayor Andres Pastrana was kidnapped, and reporter Guillermo Cano, political leader Jaime Pardo Leal, and hundreds of Colombians were sacrificed.

Last year, without extradition in effect, over 600 anonymous Colombian peasants were murdered in more than 40 massacres by hired assassins paid by drug traffickers. There is even more: Let us not forget Antioquia Governor Antonio Roldan Betancur, Magistrate Carlos Valencia, Colonel Franklyn Quintero, and Senator Luis Carlos Galan who were murdered when extradition was not in effect. Let us not say that extradition has brought us violence. A poster found at the farm raided last week, from where Pablo Escobar escaped, read: Extradition is violence. Let us not be fooled; violence has been used by drug traffickers by murdering, (?while fleeing from the reaction of justice), and intimidating Colombian society. It has also been said that extradition is undignified because it sends Colombians abroad to be tried, and that it is more dignified for them to be tried and condemned in the country by our own judges. The drug traffickers, however, have sent more than 200 Colombian judges and judicial branch officials to their grave. For example, the investigation into the murder of Dr Guillermo Cano has meant the death of witnesses, judicial officials, and lawyers and intimidation and threats to all those who want to cooperate with justice to resolve a crime. How then can we believe these drug traffickers? Can we believe that extradition has caused this violence? Can we have a free and dignified country with these bands of multimillionaire murderers?

I would also like to explain to you why the government considers it harmful and dangerous to submit extradition to a referendum. We know that extradition is only for drug traffickers. We know what they have done and what they are capable of doing. We have suffered from their terrorist actions. Many brave Colombians have been murdered for the simple reason of not agreeing with drug trafficking. Do you believe that on this topic of extradition there could be a clean electoral campaign, free from intimidation? Do you believe that those who are against drug trafficking can, without fear, give their opinion? It would be a campaign slanted by terrorism, intimidation, and drug traffickers' money.

The government cannot subject citizens to an electoral process that would not be to convince Colombians, but to intimidate them. A referendum is for people to express their free and sovereign decision on a topic of general interest. To include extradition in the referendum would only serve so that a handful—less than 100—drug traffickers can, by using their money and terror, intimidate public opinion, the media, and all Colombians, so as to avoid being tried and condemned for crimes that they had committed abroad.

Conditions of terrorism do not allow this topic to be decided freely. I call for good sense so that the dark interests of a few private people are not confused with the general interest of all Colombians. I call for Colombians not to allow the constitutional reforms that are in the final discussion, or the first referendum in over 30 years, to be used in an opportunistic way to serve selfish interests. The government is convinced that the constitutional reforms and the extraordinary referendum will be an important advancement for the institutions. They will allow greater participation by the people in state decisions, in congress, and are without doubt a step toward peace. I know there are some who say that drug traffickers want peace and tranquility. I want to say that eliminating extradition will not bring tranquility, but impunity and more violence. This is why it is advisable that parliamentarians not allow institutional changes to be endangered or the peace accords be put to serious risk due to the inclusion in the referendum of a topic that not only would not be good for the country, but would be dangerous to all Colombians.

As is publicly known, I will travel to Japan on 3 December at the official invitation of the Japanese Government. This is part of Colombia's opening to the Pacific. There, I shall meet with Emperor Akihito; with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu; with the legislative chambers; with industrial, political, and academic leaders; and with Japanese Government lending and trade entities. There, I shall present a true picture of Colombia—a country with difficulties, but with the national resolve to overcome them. We are a country with a promising future, with hard-working people, and with vast natural resources. A few criminals will not be able to snatch that future from us. Good night, and see you soon.

Extradition Inclusion in Referendum Controversial

Minister Opposes Inclusion

PA0112211789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1740 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] A proposal to include extradition in a referendum scheduled for 21 January, which was introduced by 22 Liberal and Conservative representatives on the evening of 30 November, unleashed a serious national controversy. Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds openly and vehemently opposed the initiative, claiming that it would be tantamount to leading Colombians to a slaughterhouse. Lemos said that he will advise President Virgilio Barco to reject the constitutional amendment and not call a referendum. Jesus Garzon filed this report:

[Begin Garzon recording] The inclusion and approval of the extradition issue in the constitutional amendment bill this dawn by the Chamber of Representatives' First Commission provoked a most violent confrontation between the government and Congress. Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds angrily voiced his opposition after the extradition issue was included in the 21 January referendum.

A group of 22 parliamentarians headed by Social Conservative Carlos Pineda Chillan sparked the debate by proposing the inclusion of extradition in the referendum. This initiative was approved over Minister Lemos' opposition.

The constitutional amendment bill will now face a penultimate debate before a plenary meeting of the Chamber of Representatives. As a result of this, Colombians will determine, via popular vote on 21 January, whether to approve the extradition of Colombian drug traffickers.

The constitutional amendment bill, which is essential to President Barco's peace plan, now faces an uncertain future, because of this confrontation between the government and Congress over the extradition issue.

We interviewed leaders from various parties, the Judicial Branch, and the Colombian Catholic Church concerning this bill, which has caused a national commotion. Carlos Arturo Paez has the report. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Paez] That Colombians will have to decide in the 21 January referendum whether they approve or reject extradition has prompted various reactions. It is clear for the M-19 [19 April Movement] that neither extradition nor topics related to drug trafficking were among the points agreed upon with the government.

[M-19 leader Alfonso Cabrera] The referendum cannot include measures for war and peace at the same time. We made this recommendation to the government and reached an agreement with Barco's government in the sense that the topics in the referendum should be clearly oriented toward consolidating national peace.

[Paez] The government has warned that there will be a slaughter in the country if Colombians are asked to vote on extradition in a referendum, because there will be pressure from all sides. Do you think this will happen?

[Patriotic Union leader Diego Montano] I really do not know if the pressure already being exerted on the Congress will be exerted on the voters. However, I do not think it will be necessary, as voters in Colombia do not go to the polls freely, but as directed by their political chiefs. Since the political chiefs have already been bought, there is no need to buy the voters.

[Paez] Liberal Candidates Cesar Gaviria and Jaime Castro had divided opinions on the whether the Colombian people should vote on extradition.

[Gaviria] I do not think it advisable to present the extradition issue to the Colombian citizens because, first of all, the country faces intimidation from the criminal drug trafficking organizations. Therefore, I do not feel that it should make such an important decision under the current climate of intimidation and terrorism.

[Castro] I do not think the decision by the Chamber of Representatives came as any surprise. Those who made the proposal had publicly announced beforehand that they would request the inclusion of that subject in the 21 January referendum. [end recording]

Extraditables Hail Inclusion

PA0212024789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Report by Diana Sofia Giraldo]

[Text] Norberto Morales Ballesteros, president of the Chamber of Representatives, told this newscast today that The Extraditables have told him that they will declare a unilateral cease-fire on 4 December at the latest in response to last night's vote by the Chamber's first committee. This means that The Extraditables would stop their attacks in the country in exchange for including extradition as one of the topics on which Colombians will be consulted through the referendum scheduled for January.

Morales Ballesteros reported today that in a surprise announcement, The Extraditables will declare a cease-fire in their war in Colombia. According to him, this will be a unilateral truce to demonstrate they do not intend to carry out any carnage and that, instead, they support the chamber's decision to let the people make the decision about their status.

[Begin Morales recording, in progress] ...and an announcement will be published on 4 December by the persons accused of drug trafficking in which they declare a unilateral stop to the war, hoping that the people will be the ones to make the decision about their own fate and believing that the Congress will be able to introduce the extradition issue into the law on the constitutional amendments and in the corresponding section of the referendum. [end recording]

The president of the chamber roundly refused to identify his source.

[Begin recording] [Morales] Somebody must have certainly talked. Someone must have discussed it. This is not bad. That is not bad.

[Reporter] They called you but have not called again?

[Morales] They have not called again. [Words indistinct] but they will most probably call me today or tomorrow. [end recording]

Barco Critical of Congress

PA0312160789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Bogota—If the peace process fails, it will be because of the Chamber of Representatives' decision regarding a constitutional amendment on the extradition issue, President Virgilio Barco Vargas said before departing for Japan, where he will sign bilateral agreements which will greatly benefit Colombia.

In a statement to reporters, President Barco referred to the peace process saying that if the agreements fail, it will be because of the Chamber of Representative's decision regarding a constitutional amendment.

I hope that congressmen will put the country's interests before their personal interests, Barco said, adding that he trusts that the plenum of the Chamber of Representatives will note the government's objections to the amendment.

President Barco will make a technical stopover in Los Angeles, spend one night in Hawaii, and arrive in Japan on Tuesday.

President Barco's visit to Japan is aimed at strengthening technological and commercial relations with that country. Among other things, Colombia will obtain a $200 million credit and will try to solve problems related to fruits being imported by Japan.

Defense Minister Gives Views

PA0312201689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Defense Minister General Oscar Botero Restrepo is hoping that Congress reconsiders its decision that Colombians should be consulted on whether citizens linked to drug trafficking should be extradited or not. The minister has also rejected the pardon for military men and said they should be held accountable for their crimes. Gen Botero Retrepo is optimistic regarding the peace process between the Barco government and the M-19 [19 April Movement] and expects it to be complied with once the constitutional reforms are approved.

[Begin Botero recording] I hope that the peace process that has been achieved with so much care by the national government is not cut short, and that the M-19 surrenders in accordance with what they have offered and what has been agreed to. [end recording]

The defense minister said this while reviewing new antiaircraft equipment sent by the Israeli Government. In the next few days, 16 new antiaircraft cannons will arrive in the country.

President Discusses Upcoming Visit to Japan

*OW0412131389 Tokyo KYODO in English
1226 GMT 4 Dec 89*

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 3 KYODO—Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas on Sunday called his coming visit to Japan the start of a new era in bilateral ties and said the violent drug barons of his nation could be defeated.

Barco will arrive in Japan on Tuesday for a four-day state visit, the first by a Colombian president to the country.

The president, responding in writing to questions posed by Japanese mass media, said the mutual understanding fostered by his visit would provide a base for increased economic ties.

Denying charges that Colombia's was a "drug economy," Barco pointed to agricultural and other reforms as effective economic boosts. The contribution of money from the illicit sale of narcotics to the economy was miniscule, he said.

The president has been battling the nation's cocaine cartels since he assumed office in 1986, declaring an all-out war on the cartels earlier this year.

In a speech to the United Nations this September, Barco asked for international cooperation in cracking down on "money-laundering" schemes whereby drug lords invest their illicit earnings, covering up the origin of the funds.

The president expressed confidence that the drug scourge could be defeated with this and other help from abroad. Japan has said it will aid Barco in his fight against the syndicates. It extended some 6.7 million dollars in economic aid to Colombia last year.

Barco said plans to form a common market among seven Latin American countries would provide a firm economic foundation for nations in the region with a shared ideology.

He is scheduled to meet Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama during his stay in Tokyo.

Police Center in Medellin Bombed

*PA0212141389 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1228 GMT 2 Dec 89*

[Text] A terrorist attack was perpetrated last night against a Police Immediate Action Center, CAI, in La Milagrosa neighborhood in eastern Medellin. Official reports received by this station state that unidentified men threw a bomb of moderate intensity at the CAI on the corner of 30th Avenue and 41st Street. The explosion caused serious damage to the facade of the building and to one of the motorcycles used by the police.

Despite the operations carried out by the Metropolitan Police and other security organizations in the capital of Antioquia Department, the terrorists were able to escape.

Peru

Arrest Made for Murder of U.S. Journalist

*PY0212114089 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0359 GMT 2 Dec 89*

[Text] Lima, 1 Dec (EFE)—The Peruvian Police and members of the U.S. DEA [Drug Enforcement Agency] have arrested one of the alleged killers of U.S. journalist Todd Smith. The man in question is a Colombian nicknamed "Yacare" [crocodile], the metropolitan daily LA REPUBLICA, reported today.

According to the newspaper, Yacare was arrested in Uchiza, a village in the northeastern Department of San Martin, where Todd Smith's body was found on 20 November [passage indistinct] DEA in Lima, the Colombian and four other persons, who have been identified after the Colombian was questioned, participated in the killing of the correspondent of the TAMPA TRIBUNE of Florida, United States. They carried out the killing on orders from the drug trafficking organization known as the Medellin Cartel.

The DEA is cooperating with the Peruvian Police by providing eight helicopters and several experts for the antinarcotic struggle in the coca-growing area of the Upper Huallaga River.

Peruvian Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla confirmed on 27 November that Smith was kidnapped and murdered by drug traffickers, who killed him for a considerable amount of money.

LA REPUBLICA states that the journalist was killed because he had a lot of information about the activities of drug trafficking gangs in the area and about their leaders.

LA REPUBLICA adds that according to the police, the assassins were following orders from the Medellin Cartel and from the association of coca producers.

Todd Smith was tortured before he was killed, although according to LA REPUBLICA he was shot to death. Smith had gone to the area of the Upper Huallaga to write a report on drug trafficking and terrorism.

Terrorist Attacks, Red Alert in Andean Areas

*PY0212202089 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0354 GMT 2 Dec 89*

[Text] Ayacucho, 1 Dec (EFE)—The Peruvian National Police reported that alleged Shining Path members today murdered Roberto Huaman, a leftist councilman of Ayacucho, a city 576 km southeast of Lima. The terrorists also bombed an official vehicle that was parked only a few meters away from where a group of military men were having dinner.

The police reported that the terrorists who attacked Huaman's home wore ski masks and shouted slogans supporting the Shining Path. Huaman's body was riddled with bullets.

Huaman, 32, was a councilman in Ayacucho, president of the regional branch of the Peruvian Bank Employees Federation (FEB), and a leader of the United Left communist coalition.

The police also reported that a group of terrorists set off a dynamite charge under a pickup truck belonging to a public organization. The pickup was parked near the entrance to a restaurant patronized by marine infantry and Peruvian Air Force (FAP) officers.

According to the police, the bombing seriously injured two pedestrians. They did not report whether any military men were harmed. The attack took place amid the blackout that Ayacucho has been experiencing for 2 weeks now.

Abimael Guzman, the founder and leader of the Shining Path, will be 54 this 3 December and his followers usually "celebrate" his birthday by carrying out attacks and murdering soldiers, public servants, and municipal authorities.

Guzman's whereabouts have been unknown since 1979, 1 year before the beginning of the Shining Path's armed struggle, which has alrady cost 15,000 lives and at least $12 billion in damages.

The police also reported that several Italian nuns escaped unhurt from a terrorist attack on a convent in Huaraz, an Andean province. The attack did cause considerable damage to the convent. On 30 November alleged Shining Path militants attacked a monastery of Our Lady of Wisdom. The building housing the convent, headed by the Italian nun Francesca Carnilia Perfumo, was seriously damaged.

In view of Guzman's birthday, the National Police have gone on "red alert" throughout the Andean region.

Garcia Meets With Argentine Vice President

PY0112135889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia met privately with Argentine Vice President Eduardo Alberto Duhalde at Government Palace tonight. At the end of the meeting, the head of state accompanied the eminent guest to the front door and said that during their meeting they discussed bilateral relations and confirmed the commitment of Argentines and Peruvians alike to fraternity and individual identity within a unified Latin America.

Argentine Vice President Eduardo Alberto Duhalde expressed his satisfaction with his talks with the Peruvian president.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] How was your meeting with the Argentine vice president?

[Garcia] It is with great satisfaction that I, on behalf of all Peruvians, receive the Argentine vice president and with him ratify our commitment, as Argentines and as Peruvians, to fraternity and individual identity within a unified Latin America. Through him, I am fraternally embracing President Menem, and I am conveying my commitment to share with him the task of building the great fatherland.

[Reporter] Are there common positions for combating drug trafficking?

[Garcia] Yes, there are. The vice president clearly expressed them today at the international press conference. As he has just told me, I believe that we share this problem. I believe that we, all Latin America, will be able to give a common response on this issue. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What other topics did you discuss during your meeting?

[Garcia] Our bilateral relations and our common goal to continue working shoulder to shoulder with Argentina for Latin America's future.

[Reporter] Will you visit Argentina, Mr President?

[Garcia] I would like to do so very much if I am authorized by Peru.

[Reporter] How was your dialogue with the Peruvian president?

[Duhalde] Well, it was a fruitful dialogue, at least for me, because the president expressed very important ideas regarding the problem that brought me here today. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Venezuela

Election of Municipal Representatives, Governors

Apathy, Absenteeism Noted

PA0312183889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1717 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Caracas, 3 Dec (EFE)—Apathy characterized elections in Venezuela today. Only 10 percent of more than 9 million voters have turned out at the polls 5 and ½ hours after the 26,000 voting centers established throughout the country were opened.

Today, for the first time, Venezuelans will directly elect their municipal representatives, governors, mayors, and councilmen.

Commentators from various Venezuelan media sources have noted the apathy observed in these elections during the electoral campaign that ended on 30 November.

In addition, some political circles have said that these elections could register the largest number of abstentions in the past 31 years of Venezuelan democratic life.

The seven Venezuelan presidential elections held between 1958 and 1988 have registered growing abstentionism, which has been estimated at between 8 and 20 percent.

Absenteeism in the previous municipal elections in 1979 and 1988—which were to elect councilmen only—was between 20 and 40 percent, respectively.

Therefore, local commentators have predicted that the percentage of voters who will not go to the polls in these elections could reach 60 percent.

Analysts believe that the economic crisis, which has brought a record inflation rate of 77 percent to this country, could be the main cause for the lack of interest shown in these elections.

Democratic Action Claims Victory

PA0412002589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2352 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Caracas, 3 Dec (EFE)—The ruling Democratic Action Party (AD), of social democratic leaning, claimed victory in the first Venezuelan elections for governors, mayors, and councilmen held today.

The AD candidates for governor won in 14 of the 20 states of the nation, while the second most important political force, the Social Christian Party (COPEI), won in only 3 states.

The leftist Movement for Socialism (MAS) candidate won in the State of Aragua.